

S1247



Scrapbook Newsclips from 1929 - 1972 Pt. 1 Lillian Johnson LPA CHARTER MEMBER





1967 Lillian Johnson  
 Charter Member Little People of America

**Lillian Johnson (Minor)**

Born: Mar. 23, 1908      Texas      Diagnosis: Pituitary Dwarf  
 Death: Jun. 25, 1993      Bakersfield, Calif

Lillian grew up in Texas and after high school joined a midget circus, in Dallas, Texas, where she met her future husband, Waino Johnson.

Waino, who was also a pituitary dwarf grew up in Minnesota and had a typical child hood. He attended school, helped with farm work, and then left home to find his way in the world. For a short time he was a constable in Hibbing, Minnesota and was featured in "*Ripley's Believe it or Not*" as the "World's Smallest Constable". In his varied career he was a nightclub entertainer, circus performer, actor, skier, and ice hockey goalie.

Waino and Lillian's venture with the midget circus was not successful but the couple moved on to other work in entertainment. During WWII Waino worked as a mechanic at a Lockheed Airplane Factory. After the war he and Lillian were custodians on a large cattle ranch near Bakersfield, Calif. Later Waino went to school and learned radio and T.V. repair and then got work at McClellan Air Force Base, in Sacramento, Calif., as a Jet Engine Mechanic. After this work he set up a television repair business in his home.

Waino and Lillian attended the first meeting of what became Little People of America, which was held in Reno, Nevada, in 1957. Lillian attended the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting of LPA at Reno in 1982. At the meeting she said, "When I was a child, it was either the Circus or Fairs. I'm very thankful for LPA."

Waino had a knack for and connections with the print media wherever he traveled. His wife Lillian kept a scrapbook of dwarf related items that date from 1929. The scrapbook is sprinkled with news articles and photos of Waino or Waino and Lillian describing their travels and particularly their regular attendance at the annual convention of the Little People of America.

After Waino died Lillian moved to Bakersfield where she lived until her death in 1993



Miss Lillie Mince left Monday of this week for Dallas where she has accepted a position with the Pan American Exposition.

## San Antonio Aid Amazes Tiny Folk

By International News Service.

SAN ANTONIO, June 5.—One hundred twenty-two of the world's tiniest people were stranded in San Antonio today, but they thanked their lucky stars they were in such a hospitable city when their show closed.

The traveling Stanley Graham Midget Circus, which was last seen in Dallas, was attached by creditors when it failed to attract the customers through the gate.

A free breakfast was given to them by a chain drug store. As guests of Porter Loring, member of the Circus Fans of America, they were entertained at lunch at a prominent hotel. Loring heads a committee which is trying to help out their friends. Private individuals have shown a willingness to help which has amazed the tiny folk.

1928-29

## Midget Circus Will Make Bow to Dallas May 21



The first midget circus in history will make its bow to Dallas with a premiere scheduled for Friday night, May 21. While there have been numerous midget shows, this will be the first time that twelve dozen peewee players have been assembled in one show and the first time that such a group ever embarked on a world tour under the big top.

Tuesday is casting day for the midgets and Monday evening they swarmed like ants around the exposition grounds where Stanley Graham, impresario of the International Midget Circus, was busy telling them about the tour. Groups of huge and unwieldy hounds, each one of them much larger than the midgets, panted around Graham's office and sniffed inquisitively at his Chippendale chair legs. These dogs are foils for the little fellows, who ride them, drive them and boot them along through a series of animal acts.

Just a little larger than the Great Danes are the combined troupe of Robinson, Powers and Christy elephants—a score or more swaying giants who are holding an elephant convention in the exposition live stock barns. These huge beasts will work with the midgets.

Aristocracy of the entire midget world, all under three feet, are waiting for the hoisting of the big top, which is the third largest tent in American circus business. Seventeen nations are represented at midget headquarters and Stanley Graham Monday hired Manuel Giraldo, who speaks eight different languages, as an interpreter.

Mary Patricia Finn is here from the Mills Circus in London where she has starred as Mignonette for the last few years. She does, trapeze acts. Max Chrysler has arrived from Berlin with a tribe of trained lions. He is the only midget lion tamer in existence. He also puts a herd of fifteen Arabian horses through their intricate paces.

Jose Victor, half-pint cousin of the President of Cuba, will stage a high wire act. Charlotte Sullivan, diminutive torch singer, is here from Hollywood. Ariel, the British Venus, missed the coronation to be on hand in Dallas and so did the Boer brothers who are about knee high.

Gene Polfi of Vienna is director of the midget band of twenty-two pieces, using a broom straw as a baton. He has prepared a concert program. The Salesmanship Club of Dallas is aiding Stanley Graham in the promotion of the circus with James K. Wilson as chairman of the committee in charge. The show will be staged on the vacant lot opposite the Young street post office.

## Stranded Midgets Find Geerosity in San Antonio Folk

Benefit Show, Free Meals Aimed at Aiding Troup

San Antonio rose with its customary generosity Friday to find ways and means of caring for 122 midgets stranded here when the circus with which they were appearing was attached by creditors.

Friday morning a group of the midgets was invited to the Walgreen Drug Store for breakfast and at noon another group was entertained at the St. Anthony Hotel as guests of Porter Loring, member of Circus Fans of America.

Tuesday at midnight there will be a mammoth benefit performance on the stage of the Majestic Theater at which time the midgets will put on their specialties and walk away with the returns, as the theater is furnishing all the individual help and services as its contribution. This was arranged by William O'Donnell, city manager, Interstate Theaters.

Harry Hertzberg, former president of the Circus Fans of America, is active in the relief measures for the stranded performers. He has appointed a committee headed by Porter Loring to have charge of the finances of the benefit show.

There is no down-heartedness among the small people. Instead they look upon the situation with a true tramping philosophy as expressed by Charlie Ludwig, 50, two-foot and a half super master of ceremonies, who took a long puff on his cigar and discussed the situation Friday.

"It's nothing to be alarmed about," he assured a half a dozen six-foot admiring policemen who circled his chair at the police station. "It's the same old, old story. I've been stranded dozens of times, so it's nothing new to me."

"I learned from the start to play the show game," Ludwig, who has had 18 years of varied show experience including many flings at vaudeville, explained. "My first boss in Germany gave the producer's slant on the business."

"Charlie," he said, "if you ever get to be a producer, remember to pay your troupers a small salary, and always keep behind on their pay. A satisfied trouper will leave you. Just keep a good supply of liquor on hand."

Ludwig drinks gin exclusively because beer and whisky swell his legs.

"Who knows how long we'll be here. Maybe another day, maybe another week. But we'll get along," he declared.

Ludwig was nattily attired in a swanky double-breasted suit, a collar-attached shirt, a collegiate brown hat and 8½ children-size black boots.

"It would be a fine chance for some producer to pick up a show," he commented. "The show people are just right for somebody to step in now and handle them. There are quite a few married and have obligations, but no money. Fine chance for somebody."

Ludwig missed out on the free lunch given Thursday noon in the St. Anthony Hotel for the midgets.

"I got up late," he explained, "and had a cup of coffee and a roll. I wasn't hungry at noon, so I didn't go around. I've got to be mighty careful about my diet."

Charlie is well known at the police station and a close friend of Chief Owen W. Kilday. He recently closed an engagement at the Diamond Horseshoe here.

3 E 8  
ROW SEC. SEAT  
MAY 31, 1937 NIGHT  
RESERVED SEAT COUPON  
SEAT TAX \$1.00  
Total .60  
RETAIN THIS CHECK  
STANLEY GRAHAM'S INTERNATIONAL MIDGETS CIRCUS  
ADMISSION AND RESERVED SEAT TICKET  
MAY 31, 1937 NIGHT  
Tax \$1.00  
Adm. & Seat 1.00  
Total 2.00  
RETAIN THIS CHECK  
RESERVED SEAT COUPON  
MAY 31, 1937 NIGHT  
SEAT TAX \$1.00  
Total .60  
RETAIN THIS CHECK

PHONE 3-0720

OPEN ALL NIGHT

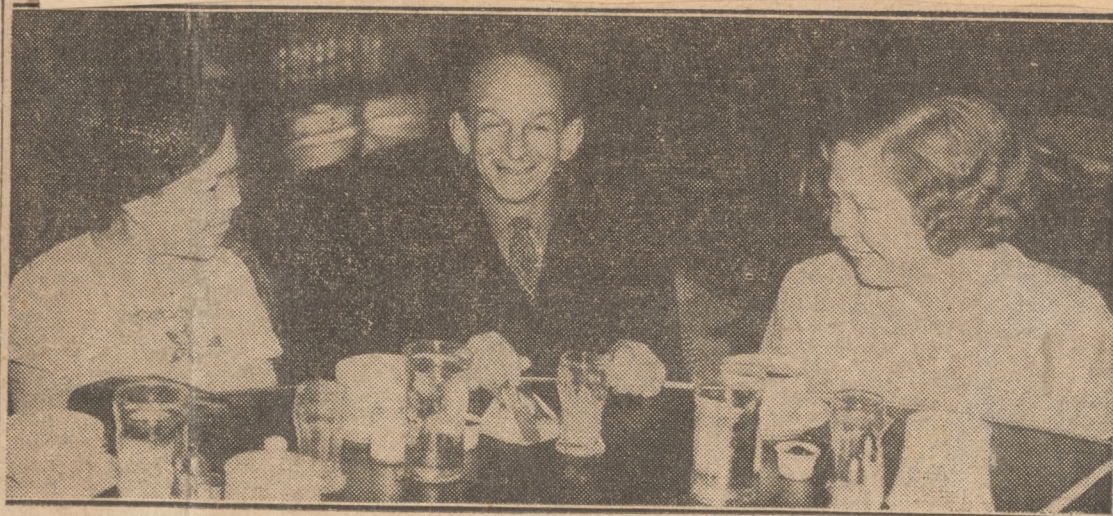
## Patterson's Cafe

FINE STEAKS AND CHOPS

ALL KINDS SANDWICHES

(Over)

840 EXPOSITION



MIDGETS BREAKFAST GUESTS—

Three of the 122 stranded troupers of the Stanley Graham's International Midget Circus are shown here as they sat at a free breakfast given to 50 midgets Friday morning by Walgreen's Drug Store, 300 East Houston. Preparation was made for 80 of the small actors, but only 50 appeared to take advantage of the meal. A section was reserved for the midgets whose circus was attached here Thursday by creditors. Left to right, are shown "Miss Warren," San Diego, Calif.; Frank Packard, New York City, and Lillie Miller, Lamesa, Tex.



# MIDGET CIRCUS AND VAUDEVILLE

2 SHOWS, FRIDAY, JUNE 11th  
3:30 P. M. AND 8:15 P. M.

Municipal Auditorium

## Midget Actors

50% of PROCEEDS TO THE MIDGETS

50% to FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS  
TO ESTABLISH FREE CLINIC

**Featuring:--**

JOHN LESTER'S ENGLISH MIDGETS

DUDLEY'S FAMOUS MIDGET ACROBATS

AL THEIS' TINY TOWN REVUE

ROSE'S PARISIAN MIDGETS, *Featuring*  
Mae West and Fan Dance by Mlle. Fifi

POWER'S ELEPHANTS

ADMISSION: Children 25c; Adults 25c-50c

THE NAYLOR CO., SAN ANTONIO

## 'Tom Thumb' Had Wealth From Physical Deformity and Repaid a Benefactor

BY JEFF D. RAY.

Last week I had a word to say about P. T. Barnum. Today let us discuss one who was both his beneficiary and his benefactor, Tom Thumb.

Born of strict Puritan parentage, in Bridgeport, Conn., in the year 1837, he was apparently a normal child; and in normal fashion was given the name Charles S. Stratton. At 6 months, however, he ceased to develop physically.

A peculiar quirk of religious conscience caused his father to look upon the resulting dwarfed condition of Charles as a mark of the wrath of God, and upon the unfortunate child as a disgrace to himself and his family. A similar belief on the part of his brothers and sisters made them ashamed to own him as their brother. Only his mother remained his friend. The first 10 years of his life he lived, therefore, the unhappy victim of circumstances, a virtual prisoner in his home.

About this time P. T. Barnum, already a showman of rapidly growing reputation, visited the town of Bridgeport and learned of the diminutive child. At once he was interested in the tiny creature as a possible money-making attraction. A conference with the lad resulted in a four-week trial contract on a salary of \$3 a week. The experiment gave promise of success and the midget was offered an extension of the contract covering a tenure of 12 months, on the increased wage of \$7 a week. But this time Barnum was assured that he had found a real fortune in this little body; and active conscience would not allow him to go through with the terms of this contract, as to salary. On his own volition the amount was raised to \$25 a week.

The showman decked the little Charles in the regalia of a "dandy" gentleman and dubbed him "Gen. Tom Thumb." Tours abroad followed during which the little general gained entrance into royal courts. His popularity with the public and value to his employer grew at an amazing pace; and so tremendous were the returns on his future contracts that at the age of 20 he found himself a wealthy man, able to retire to private life. He built a magnificent home, acquired an extensive country estate which he stocked with blooded horses, bought a yacht, decked himself in the trappings of a naval officer, and gave himself to the full physical enjoyment of luxury and ease.

Shortly afterward Barnum suffered serious financial reverses. Then it was that beneficiary turned benefactor and Tom Thumb, seeing the opportunity, voluntarily gave up his life, of luxury and ease, re-entered the show business, sailing under the flag of "Gen. Tom Thumb," the box office attraction, accompanied Barnum on tours at home and abroad, until a depleted fortune had been recouped and Barnum was on a solid financial basis once more.



JEFF D. RAY.

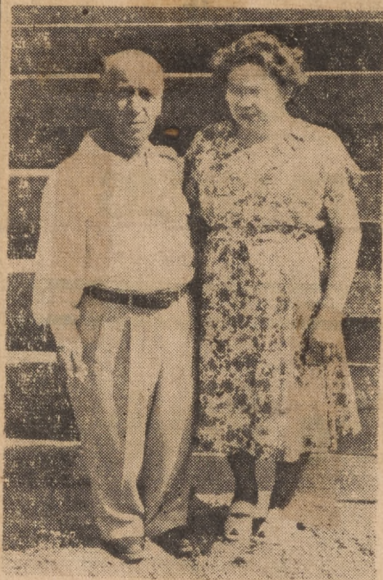
Again Tom Thumb retired, living the life of an ordinary citizen until his marriage to the diminutive Lavinia Warren in 1863 brought him once more into the limelight. There followed many years in which Tom Thumb strained a swollen purse past its ability to provide for his extravagant tastes, and fed and pampered a diminutive body beyond its ability to endure. At the age of 45 a stroke of apoplexy, the natural outcome of the manner after which he had lived, ended his checkered career and left his little widow with but small means to sustain life.

Consequently, two years later, Lavinia, herself a retired show woman, married another midget — "Prince" Primo Magri. Dreary, endless hours followed until at last a little woman who had herself appeared before kings and queens and attained the station of a world celebrity, at the age of 75 found herself in a Coney Island sideshow, desperately weary. One brief flare of glory came to her a little later when she and the "prince" were featured in motion pictures, the first midgets ever to gain that distinction. Then the flickering light died away and in 1919, at the age of 78, Lavinia died and was buried in a miniature casket, beside her first husband. There is a 30-foot monument surmounted by a life sized statue of Tom Thumb, built by his widow; but nearby is her modest 18-inch stone bearing the simple word "wife."

Thus ends a story in which a seemingly insurmountable physical handicap became a stepping stone to fame and fortune; and thus ends a story in which the achievements in fame and fortune were so misused as to bring utter ruin physically and financially.

Tom Thumb is not the only man who abused prosperity coming to him almost by accident. He has his counterpart in practically every community in the land. Men who can really profit by prosperity are few and far between.





MR. AND MRS. JOHNSON

### Local People have Part in Top Show Pigmy Island

"Everything happens in a little town that happens in a big city if you wait long enough." This old saying is proven true again right here in our local community.

Mr. and Mrs. Waino Johnson have just finished playing major parts in a heavy Columbia picture titled "Pigmy Island," which will be showing in two or three months.

The Johnsons, little, affable, deserving and talented, have played in many pictures, and have entertained in some of the top spots of our large cities.

The Johnsons measure only a little over four feet in height.

Mr. Johnson has been featured in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" as the smallest Constable in the world with Hibbing, Minn. as the setting.

"Pigmy Island" will run in Lamont and Kern County theatres in the near future, and it is our venture that these theatres will enjoy top attendance during the run of this thrilling picture, just as was the case during the showings of "Mysterious Islands."

The picture has the setting, the plot and the talent to make it one of the season's popular productions.



### 40 Inch Tall Mechanic Weds 39 Inch Bride

NORTH HOLLYWOOD — AP—Short and sweet was the marriage of Dolores Brown and Joe Vercellino. She is 39

inches tall, Vercellino 1 inch taller.

After the ceremony Saturday in the St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, the bride, 26, of North Hollywood, and Vercellino, 32, left for a honeymoon along the coast. They

30 years and plans to open a store in Bakersfield soon.

### Little Lamont Couple Appear in New Movie

LAMONT—Mr. and Mrs. Waino Johnson of Lamont recently finished playing major parts in a Hollywood production titled, "Pigmy Island." The Johnsons, each measuring barely four feet in height, have appeared in several motion pictures and have been in the entertainment business for many years.

Johnson was featured recently in the late Ripley's "Believe It Or Not," as the smallest constable in the world with Hibbing, Minn., as the setting.

"Pigmy Island," a Columbia production, is scheduled to appear in Kern county soon.

### Local People Have Part In Hollywood Pic

Taking a leading part in the top Hollywood production by Columbia Picture Corporation were Mr. and Mrs. Marion Nichols and Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Johnson.

The picture in which will be seen in these parts in the near future is titled "Pigmy Island."

The "little people" residing here are to be congratulated on the nice part they were given in the picture.

Mr. and Mrs. Verne Johnson of Burbanks, Calif., arrived in Hibbing recently to attend the funeral services of their uncle, Thomas Nyström. Johnson is a former resident of Hibbing and at present is employed at the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Johnson of Hollywood and Chicago visited Wednesday at the homes of Mrs. Anna Karkas and Mr. and Mrs. Irving Valley.

### 4 PACEMAKER

## Profile



### Waino Is 52 Inches Of Boundless Energy And Various Talent

By Fenton L. Williams

Can you touch the floor without bending your knees? "Ha!" says Johnson, "that's nothing." And he promptly stoops over and touches his HEAD to the floor without bending his knees.

Waino Johnson, 56, employed in oxygen regulator disassembly, is only 4 feet 4 inches high. His wife, the former Lillie Miner, stands 4 feet 4½ inches tall. (To qualify for membership in Little People of America you must be under 4 feet 10 inches.)

#### Ski Jumper

Johnson hails from Minnesota. Though nearly always hidden in a forest of big folks around him, he hasn't let his diminutive size keep him from leading a pretty normal life. He became a ski enthusiast in his early days in Minnesota after doing successfully—heads up—the 80 foot jump near his home town of Hibbing.

"It was in Hibbing that I served as town constable," Johnson recalled. "I had to keep order around the dance halls and other places where the iron miners and woodsmen gathered. Two big burly fellows started a fight one night in a dance hall and I shouted up to them, 'Hey, you! This is no place to fight. Go out 100 feet and tear the woods apart if you want.' That ended their fight."

#### World's Smallest

Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" once featured Johnson as the world's smallest constable.

During much of his life, Johnson has been in the entertainment field performing in night clubs, circuses, etc. It was in 1937 that Luelia Parsons of Hollywood fame, on seeing him perform in the swank Cassanova Club, tried to promote him for top billing in a comedian act. Shortly after this, however, he became interested in the organization of a Midget Circus in Dallas, Texas.

"The venture failed," he explained, "but it brought good luck to me for that's where I met my

#### Long Range

Johnson returned to Hollywood and she to her home in La Mesa, Texas, but they carried on a correspondence and finally became engaged.

"When the war started, I went to work for Lockheed," said Johnson, "then I wrote for her to come to Hollywood so we could be married." She came and, with him in tails and her in evening gown, the knot was tied for good amid the bright lights and fanfare that only Hollywood knows.

After the war, the couple accepted employment on an oil man's estate near Bakersfield. He worked

### Finance Hours

Effective May 15th, the Finance Office will be open from 9:30 am to 3 pm each week day. Emergency service only will be handled before or after the above hours. This will not affect the regular pay check distribution.

#### New Town

Though he likes his work here and their home on Arcade Boulevard in North Sacramento, Johnson is interested and a bit excited about a proposed new colony for Midgets. If plans work out, it'll be up among the giant redwoods in Northern California.

"The whole community will be made to order," he says, "small houses, small streets, furniture, fixtures and everything made to match. You won't have to climb on a platform to reach into the kitchen sink or get dishes from the cupboard or look out the window. You'll be able to talk to your next door neighbor over the two foot fence and he'll be right there where you are, not way up above you."

#### Prices Small, Too?

We wonder! Will they grow tiny giant redwoods to line the streets of their tiny town? And will they have tiny doctor bills and pay tiny income taxes?



Shorty's a favorite with the kids, some of whom top him by several inches. Below, his size is evident as he wrestles a parking meter in the station house.



## PINT-SIZED COP

*He's no joke to lawbreakers in Yazoo City*

If you should run afoul of the law in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and be arrested by Patrolman Fred "Shorty" Roberts, don't make the mistake of thinking the circus is in town. For Shorty, despite his four-foot-three, 103-pound frame, is plenty big enough to make an arrest and often does.

It took him two years to accumulate enough nerve to apply for the force. The chief, after his initial surprise, realized that Shorty really meant business about wanting a job and put him in uniform forthwith.

Some citizens called him a comic cop. They couldn't believe that a man who can barely reach the pedals of a patrol car, has to stand on a stool to sign the police blotter and is dwarfed by a parking meter could possibly be a real policeman.

But in five years of service Shorty has shown 'em, handling his beat and six-foot suspects with efficiency and becoming a fingerprint expert. And not once has he said: "Why don't you pick on somebody your own size!"



A traffic violator gets a ticket from Shorty, who can look down on a license plate. Residents say he's an extremely fair cop.



With the help of a stool Shorty writes on the police blotter. He handles all fingerprinting.



# TV Creates Shortage of Midgets

NEW YORK—(NEA)—Definitely no pun intended, but there is a shortage of midgets these days. And it's all on account of that old electronic debbil, television.

Between appearing in production numbers and coming on in costume for commercials, midgets are almost as big in TV as the low-cut dress.

So, for small people like George Day, Ivor Boden and Elsie Schultz, times are good. George is three-foot-ten, Elsie an even four feet, and Ivor towers two inches over the four-foot mark. The three of them are about to embark on a new stunt—playing three bear cubs named Dandy, Handy and Candy.

Being tiny isn't such a hard life, the three insist. In the first place, things are always looking up. And it's easy to choose a career, since most midgets automatically go into show business in one form or another. Finding jobs wasn't always easy, but TV changed that.

George, Ivor and Elsie have played rabbits, kittens and other forms of diminutive animal life. The two men—George is 39 and Ivor 36—have sung, danced and for many years were in an acrobatic troupe.

All of them maintain that being small is no handicap to being happy. Elsie is a pleasant-looking 50, happily married with two regular-sized daughters and a new grandchild. George and Ivor say they get a great kick out of living, and miss none of life's pleasures.

"It's very simple," says George. "If we can't reach something, we just pull over a chair or a box and climb up on it."

But there are three things that give them trouble—crowds, clothing and food.

Crowds, especially a crowded elevator, can be brutal for a small person. They get jammed up against belt buckles and brief cases and tortured by elbows and women's purses. The New York subway in rush hour is like a torture chamber to a midget.

Clothing presents a different sort of problem. The men say they can use boys' shoes, hats and, with alterations, shirts. But boys' suits aren't cut stylishly enough for them, so they have to have their suits made to order.

Elsie says she can get away with wearing girls' coats, but doesn't look well in a little girl's dress at her age. She's given up wearing high-heel shoes; they had to be made to order, and cost too much.

As for food, eating out is a problem. If they order a regular dinner, they can't finish it. Their stomachs are scaled to their size. So they either waste a lot, or else order a sandwich and let it go at that.

Elsie, who keeps house, has one other problem. Everything in her home is normal-sized, except her kitchen sink and stove. She had to have them cut down "otherwise I'd be hopping up on chairs all the time and never get my housework done."

They all say they're not sensitive about their size, and joke about it, even among themselves. George, for example, accepted a cigarette and mentioned he didn't start smoking until he was 30.

"Well, then," said Elsie, "you can't say that stunted your growth."



IVOR, ELSIE AND GEORGE: Troubles—crowds, clothing, food.



SMALLEST PARENTS—Nurse Thelma Stewart hands Debra Jo to her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Dixon, Los Angeles' smallest parents, as they leave the French Hospital. Debra Jo was born August 10th by caesarean section and weighed 5 pounds, 14 ounces. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dixon are three feet, 11 inches tall.

AP Wirephoto

## SMALL WEDDING IN LAS VEGAS PLANNED BY SMALL COUPLE

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—It will be a small wedding in more ways than one for Ann Renna, 34, of Los Angeles and Floyd Dixon, 33, of Monrovia, next month in Las Vegas, Nev.

In the first place, they want it to be a quiet affair. And secondly, each of them is only 3 feet, 11 inches tall.

They met three months ago after Miss Renna started writing to Dixon. Neither is in show business as a midget. Dixon is an employee of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, working in parts of airplanes inaccessible to normal men.

## Retired Circus Midget Marks 98th Birthday With Cake

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—(AP)—Little George Liabe, 44 inches tall, who likes fancy cake and girls, enjoyed both on his 98th birthday. Fellow patients at a rest home—most of them women—helped the retired circus midget celebrate after he insisted on a party.

His guests gave George the floor. He made two blush and the rest laugh. His performance yesterday equaled those

given when he was the star midget in sideshows.

He nodded to one 86-year-old woman and cackled:

"She's got a crush on me." The woman blushed and tittered something to a friend.

"Beautiful," George smiled as he saw the cake with 98 candles. He didn't have the wind to blow them all out.

"Punch," he ordered. "We need punch." He touched a knife to the cake and licked the frosting from it.

Somebody reminded him he failed to make a wish.

George thought a few seconds and gleefully announced:

"I'm going to live to be 110. Doctor says I have the body of a 40-year-old. Not a grey hair on my head."

Midgets usually have a much shorter life span than average persons.

As his guests ate cake and sipped punch, one visitor asked: "Do you like girls?"

George's eyes brightened: "I love the girls."

Then he hugged a social worker and whispered something to her. She blushed and patted George on the head.

"I'm not too old to kiss the girls. I do get a little tired now, more than I used to. But I can still chase them around."

An attendant offered George more punch. "Don't want any more," he snapped. "Time to go. There'll be another party next year."

Not a City...





**THEY'LL WED**—Georgia Buresh and Angelo Rossitto, Lilliputians who live in Hollywood, admit there's something cooking as they announce they will wed on July 1.

—Los Angeles Examiner photo.

## Midgets Say It's 'Love, Love, Love,' as They Plan Marriage

Love—not Lilliputian love, but great big love—yesterday had engulfed the tiny frames of two of Hollywood's smallest citizens. "It's love, love, love," tinkled the bell-like voice of Georgia Buresh, 36 inches tall.

No less ecstatic but more specific was Georgia's intended. Rising to his full height of 30 inches, Angelo Rossitto said:

"Georgia and I are afire. Yep, it's wedding bells—with orange blossoms, rice and all the trimmings. At the Blessed Sacrament Church. On July 1. At 3 p. m."

Rossitto, 35, is known to thousands as a news vendor on the corner of Hollywood boulevard

and Wilcox where he has sold Examiners for 20 years. An independent candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles in 1941, he resides at 6918 Franklin avenue.

His bride-to-be, an employee of the Douglas Aircraft Company, works with other small persons at jobs inside planes too cramped in space for normal size employees. Her home address is 925 North Ridgewood.

The couple revealed that they met at a party for little people in 1941.

"When I first saw Georgia she was standing on a chair using the telephone. It was love at first sight," said Angelo, puffing on a big black cigar.

## Angelo, 36 In. Tall, to Claim Tiny Sweetheart as Bride 4/30

By CHARLES ANDREWS

A romance that began four years ago when two "little" people formulated plans for a national organization which would solve the economic problems of 5000 others just like them in this country, will be climaxed at the altar tomorrow in the rectory of the Blessed Sacrament Church.

Principals in the romance are Angelo Rossitto, 35, and his bride-to-be, Georgia Buresh, 27. Angelo is just three feet tall, while the "little" lady is a scant six inches taller. Jack Wise, Warner Bros. actor, will be best man; Tina Bianco, an accountant at the U. S. Engineers Office, is to be maid of honor.

Following the wedding a reception will be held for relatives and friends at the newlyweds' home, 6918 Franklin Ave.; and on Monday the couple will leave for San Francisco for a honeymoon. They'll have no hotel reservation worries, for a friend, Army Sgt. Frank Donbriago has given them the key to his apartment.

### Once Studied Law

Rossitto, who abandoned study of law at Creighton University in

Omaha, the city in which he was born, to seek fame and fortune in the movies, has been in Hollywood for 19 years. He was given his first part in films by the late John Barrymore, and his first stage role by Lionel Barrymore. Up until the 1929 slump, Rossitto did well in pictures, and he gets an occasional role now. To supplement his film earnings he operates a news stand at Hollywood Blvd. and Wilcox Ave. He calls it "the most interesting job I know of," where "one gets an insight into people and makes a lot of friends."

The bride-to-be came here seven years ago from Cedar Rapids, Ia. She studied for two years at Grinnell College, majoring in English and dramatics. She wanted to teach school, but because of her height, felt she was handicapped for that profession. She, too, had hoped to enter films, but being shy, she turned instead to writing. When the war started, she worked at Douglas Aircraft doing electrical assembly, and now is teaching at the Assistance League.

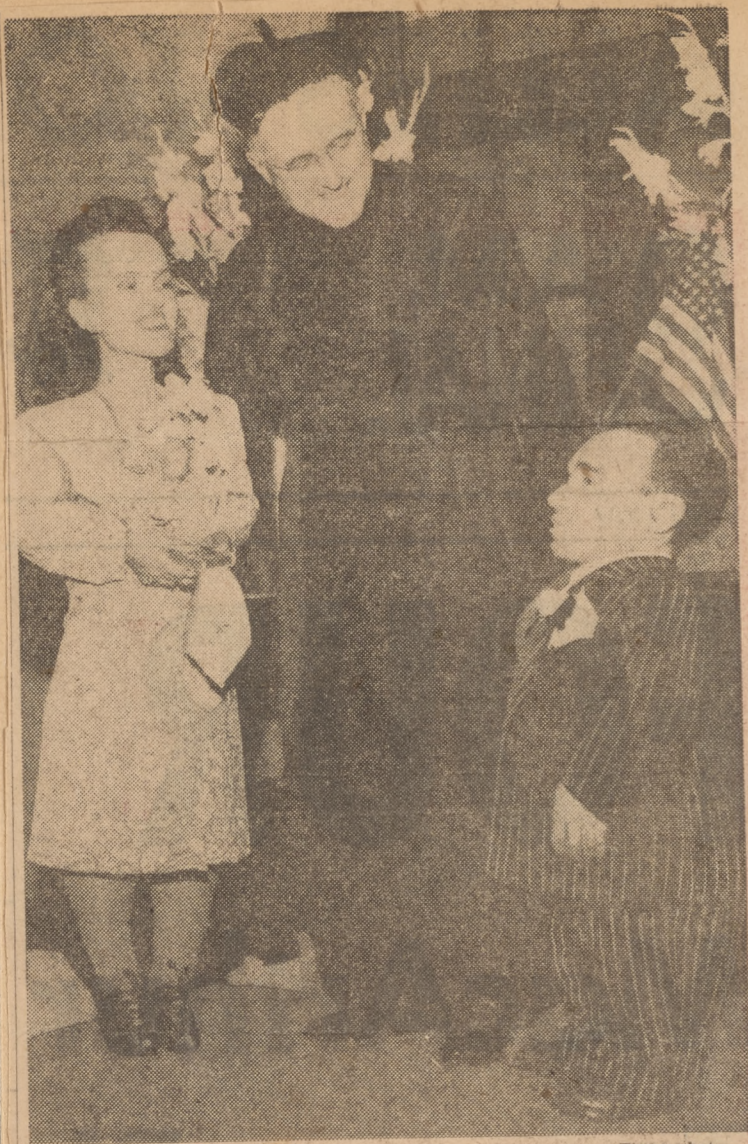
The plan of Rossitto and Miss Buresh for a national organization to help "little" people become economically free was founded after vaudeville and circus engagements became scarce.

### Hate Word 'Midget'

"These 'little' people dislike to be called midgets," Rossitto said. They are normal in every respect except height and girth. Miss Buresh and I hoped to complete an organization of stores where these 'little' people would be employed—a sort of a national co-operative. When war came and work was no longer a problem, we abandoned the plan."

1945





**NEWLYWEDS**—Angelo Rossito, three-footer, well known to Hollywood Boulevardiers, and Georgia Buresh, shown with Rev. Harold E. Ring, after wedding yesterday.

Times photo

1945



**BIG MOMENT**—Two little people had their big moment yesterday when Angelo Rossitto, 35, three feet tall, and Georgia Buresh, 27, six inches taller, were married in the patio of the Blessed Sacrament Church by Rev. Fr. Harold E. Ring. Actor Jack Wise was best man and Tina Bianco, maid of honor.

—L. L. Fischer photo.

## Two Little People Wed in Hollywood

Two little people had their big moment yesterday.

Angelo Rossitto, 35, three feet tall, and Georgia Buresh, 27, just six inches taller, were married in the patio of Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood with a yard full of friends looking on.

Angelo, who has appeared in numerous films and trouped in vaudeville, sells The Times at Hollywood Blvd. and Wilcox Ave. His bride is a teacher in nursery school. Both have normal size parents and brothers and sisters, some of whom watched the ceremony. Actor Jack Wise was best man and Tina Bianco, maid of honor.

Rev. Harold E. Ring officiated. After a honeymoon in San Francisco the newlyweds will live at 6918 Franklin Ave.



**BILLY BARTY**, 3-foot, 11-inch character actor, and his bride, Shirley Bolingbroke, who is four inches taller, wave goodbye as they leave on their honeymoon after their marriage in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints in Studio City, Calif. The two met at a convention of the Little People of America in Las Vegas in 1960.—(AP Photofax)

## Little Couple Wed, Leave on Honeymoon

Angelo Rossitto, 3-foot tall movie extra and news vendor and his bride, the former Georgia Buresh, just six inches taller, are speeding toward San Francisco today on their honeymoon.

The little couple were married yesterday in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament by the Rev. Fr. Harold E. Ring with Jack Wise, film actor, as best man, and Tina Bianco, maid of honor.

Angelo, who is 35, has appeared in numerous films and trouped in vaudeville. He has a newsstand at the corner of N. Wilcox Ave. and Hollywood Blvd. The bride, aged 27, is a nursery school teacher. They met four years ago when they became interested in a national plan to aid "little" people attain economic freedom.

Relatives of the couple, all normal in stature, attended the wedding and many film folk were present.

Upon their return from San Francisco the couple will reside at the bridegroom's home at 6918 Franklin Ave.



## Heed Call of Movies



MOVIE TALENT SCOUTS singled out Marion Nichols, 26, and his wife Betty, 31, of 2721 Kentucky st., to appear in the Columbia picture, "Pigmy Island," as members of a white pigmy tribe. The Bakersfield couple was transported to movie locations outside of San Bernardino and to North Hollywood recently. Marion is four feet four inches, Betty is four feet 2½ inches.



Bakersfield Press Photo

MARION NICHOLS, of Lamont, and BETTY MILLICAN, of Long Beach, go through a dress rehearsal of a household scene which will be a regular thing after the tiny couple's marriage Sunday in their new home at 2731 Kentucky street. Nichols is four-feet-four inches, an inch and-a-half taller than his bride-to-be.

### To Marry, Live Normal Life . . .

## Whirlwind Romance Joins Little Couple

The whirlwind romance of a little couple will culminate Sunday with a marriage at Bakersfield.

The ceremony will make Mr. and Mrs. of Marion Nichols, 25, of Lamont, and Betty Millican, 29, of Long Beach.

#### Parents from Lamont

Her fiance's parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Nichols, of Lamont. The elder Nichols is an irrigation foreman.

Nichols and Miss Millican are the only undersized members of the two families.

Her father is six-feet-one-and-a-half inches tall, and her mother and only sister are of average height.

Nichols' father is but an inch short of six feet, and his younger (See ROMANCE, Page 2B)

Nichols, an automobile mechanic, is four-feet-four inches tall.

His bride-to-be is an inch-and-a-half shorter.

The two will be married in their new home at 2731 Kentucky street by the Rev. Anna May Burton, of Four Square church.

#### Met Via Group

The two have known each other less than four months. They met August 9 at Lamont via a group of midgets to which they belong. Its membership numbers 35 "little people" from McFarland south to Los Angeles.

Although they had not known each other before, both have spent much of their lives in Kern county.

Nichols has lived at Lamont 12 years, and his prospective bride was a former resident of Bakersfield. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Millican, were married in this city, and she lived here off and on until 1942, when she moved to Long Beach with them.

## Romance

(Continued from Page 1-A)

brother, Bill, towers two inches beyond the six-foot mark.

The couple will have open house at 2 p. m. Sunday in their new home, after the ceremony.

#### ..No curiosity Seekers

"We don't want any curiosity seekers," the couple said today. We want to live normal lives, like everyone else."

Their new home has two bedrooms, and everything will be of normal size except one chair, whose legs have been shortened.

The future Mrs. Nichols will use a stool to stand on when she cooks and performs other household tasks.

The tiny couple got a marriage license this week in the county clerk's office.



## CLOWN TOPS PHIL'S GIFTS

Circus motif—and how!—was used in decorations, games and refreshments for the party yesterday of Philip Karber, 4.

A clown came to the party, a complete surprise to the child guests and to their hostess, too.

### Twin Sister's Idea

Mrs. C. K. Neufeld, twin sister of party-planning Mrs. Alvin Karber, hired the pint-sized (4 feet 4 inches) clown when she heard the circus theme was planned.

The children were ecstatic. After that, they could scarcely notice the circus decorations, the balloons, except the one the clown was bursting for their pleasure, or the refreshments.

A circus cake whirling around on a musical turnstile which played "Happy Birthday" was almost too much.

"If the children had been more excited, they'd have blown a fuse," reports Mrs. Karber.

She was almost as thrilled as the children when the clown walked in, Mrs. Karber admitted.

### Best Present

Phil thought the clown party was his best present, his mother said.



**PARTY IS A CIRCUS**—Children at fourth birthday party of Phil Karber crowded gleefully around midget clown Waino Johnson, 4 feet 4 inches tall. The excited guests moved about so rapidly it was impossible to match names and children. At the party were Bar-

bara Jean Fleming, Maxie and Randy Steinert, Ronnie Winter, Karl and Mary Ann Klausner, Timmy Nord, Kenny Kroeker, Darrell and Donald Krause, Roger Mulhook, Joanne and Kathy Agee.

## 28½ Pound Mother Has 7½ Pound Son

TURIN, Italy — AP — Mrs. Maria Spada, a midget weighing 28½ pounds gave birth yesterday to a 7½ pound son.

The mother's height is 33 inches. Her husband, who appears with her in a sideshow, is 2 inches shorter.

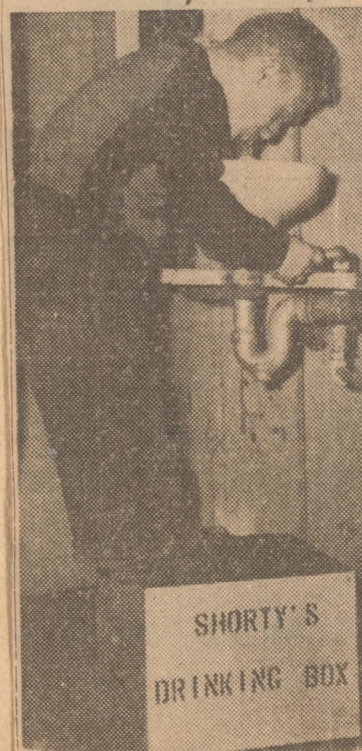
The doctor who delivered the normal sized baby said: "He should be as tall as his parents when he is 5."

## World's Smallest Pair Awaits Child No. 2

TURIN, Italy — UP — The "smallest couple in the world" are expecting a child, their second. The parents are Vittorio Spady, who is 2 feet 8 inches tall and his wife, Maria, who is 2 inches taller. They have a 4 year old son almost as tall as they.

War Labor Board orders and jurisdiction of the matter is currently being studied in San Francisco.

## "Shorty" Daly



## Midget Gets 'Gift' From Co-Workers

SANTA MONICA, Calif., May 24 — "How Dry I Am" is no longer the sorrowful chant of Martin "Shorty" Daley, midget worker at the Douglas Aircraft plant here, because today his sympathetic co-workers built a stand enabling him to reach the drinking fountain and quench his thirst like the big fellows.

Shorty's dilemma has long been a problem in the service and repair group. This pint-sized aircrafter had to step on the railing, fasten his arms around the pipes and practically chin himself on the fountain in order to get a drink of water. It was E. V. Montgomery, leadman, who finally conceived the idea of building a stand for Shorty's personal use.

With the aid of the paint department a platform was constructed and covered with non-skid graphite paint and "Shorty's Drinking Stand" was lettered on the side. Nailed to the floor it simplified his subsequent imbibing at the fountain.



## Wedding of Midgets to Attract 5000

BURBANK — Because the nuptials of Mary Copeland and Waylon H. Galloway, popular pint-sized midgets, has drawn nationwide attention, the wedding tonight has been transferred from the First Baptist church of Austin, Tex., to the state capitol of Texas.

Expecting a throng upwards of 5,000, replete with newsreel cameramen, the betrothed couple will exchange marital vows, attended by an all-midget troupe in the Texas state capitol.

Miss Copeland, 22, who had been staying in Burbank with a friend, Mrs. Peggy Cowan of 122 S. Lamer st., left Saturday night via Santa Fe to meet the man of her dreams, 21-year-old Galloway, Texas state capitol page. Mrs. Cowan today still was awaiting airplane reservation to Texas in order to attend the novel wedding.

Miss Copeland had given up a prospective film career with Warner Bros., when she decided to submit to Galloway's ardent courtship through letters. They met in Oklahoma and were separated last August after Miss Copeland had accepted the motion picture offer.

Both are 45 inches tall, weighing 53 pounds each.



**LITTLE FOLKS—BIG KISS**—Forty-five inch tall Waylon H. Galloway, 20, employe of the Texas Secretary of State's office, kisses his bride, 44-inch Rose Mary Copeland, 21, of Burbank, Cal., after their marriage the night of Dec. 20 in the state senate chamber in Austin.



**TINY COUPLE CONGRATULATED**—Forty-five-inch Wayland H. Galloway, 20, employe of the Texas secretary of state's office, and 44-inch Rose Mary Copeland, 21, of Burbank, Cal., are congratulated by Governor Stevenson after the couple's marriage in the State Senate chamber at Austin. (AP Photo).



Verne and wife visit old friends

VARIETY HAS MARKED the life of Hibbing's midget, Waino (Verne) Johnson, back with his wife, a resident of Lamessa, Texas, who too is a midget and like Verne has been in show business. The couple, recently arrived from California, are here for a few days renewing old acquaintances,

preparatory to their departure for Lamont, Calif., where Verne will go into the electrical and radio engineering profession. . . During the war Verne was with the Lockheed Airplane factories, employed as a mechanic. After the completion of the war, he and his wife were custodians of a large ranch at Bakersfield, Calif., owned by L. W. Frick, manufacturer. Verne then moved to Chicago where he entered the Coyne Electric Radio and Television school, received his diploma and is now ready to settle down and make his profession his life's work. . . Johnson was with a midget circus at Dallas and it was there he met his wife. . . He has appeared at Chicago night clubs and in the movies, and in 1937 he was on the screen with "1937 New Faces". He has appeared in night clubs at Hollywood and was with a number of night spots in the western states. He and his wife are members of the "Tiny Toppers", a group of midgets who hold regular reunions and picnics at Los Angeles. His wife, who was the former Lillie Minor, likes Minnesota, but she is afraid of the cold weather. "It's California for me," she says and Verne who is a full fledged Minnesotan, who knows what range winters are like, has suddenly turned "pansy". I don't like these frigid days any more, either," he told me.





**NO SHORT MEASURE HERE**—M. D. "Shorty" Nichols, employee at Lockheed sub-assembly plant here gives full measure in blood donorship to the American Red Cross. He recently completed his "gallon club quota" in blood donations and is shown here with Gloria Richardson, personnel clerk, with his "honorary emblem," the gallon jug of the "gallon club." Shorty stands 4 feet, 2 3/4 inches, but there was no shortage in his generosity. He has worked a year in Lockheed's local plant and three years in their plant during World War II.



**SURPRISE FOR PETE**—Little Billy Barty helps Minerva Urecal tie up some packages for a surprise birthday party for Peter Gunn. They will be among a host of familiar Peter Gunn characters who will return to the show for the party Monday at 9 PM on channels 3, 4, 7R and 8.

## 'Education Is Key'

# Little People Discuss Problem of Dwarfism

By **GEORGE SNYDER**  
Sacramento Union Staff Writer

"Think big," said 4-foot-6-inch Al Stickney on the bright veranda at the Sacramento Inn.

Stickney, a line mechanic at San Francisco International Airport, is also director of District 12 of the Little People of America.

He was in town in his official capacity — helping direct a three-day "Little People's Conference" in which some 35 to 40 dwarfed persons are exchanging information, feelings and experience to help each other make their way in a world constructed for larger persons.

"Education is the key," said Stickney. "With education, a little person can find employment opportunities.

"At the conference," he explained

from his chair, "we exchange information. For example, there is one member here who makes extensions for use in the home. These are used by medically dwarfed people to reach things like doors, you know, and other things in the home.

"There are more than 50 types of dwarfism," Stickney noted. "For example, there is the pituitary dwarf who is usually perfectly proportioned. Other types of dwarfs—we don't use the word 'midget' — will have normal-sized torsos but with small arms and legs. Some also have large heads."

Stickney, later joined by his wife, a former schoolteacher, said his organization is primarily concerned with educating families with facts and acceptance of dwarfism.

"Many people don't know what to do when they find out that their child is

dwarfed," he said. "We try to tell them how to accept their children."

Dwarfed members in the organization include blue-and white-collar workers, clerks, artists and educators — in short, a cross-section of American professional and working life.

"We also aid in every way we can," Stickney added, "medical research looking into dwarfism."

How does it feel to be different? "You should know — you're different," said Mrs. Stickney. "It's not the size of the body that counts, it's the size of the mind."

Then, scheduled to leave for the next conference activity, Stickney said:

"Think big. That's our motto." He got up to get his car, with its brake, clutch and gas pedal extensions, to go bowling with his wife and friends.



Johnnie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. V. McDill of 655 Prospect St., South Pasadena, in whose rambling home the wedding was conducted by the Rev. Harold E. Doty, pastor of Memorial Baptist church.



RIVERSIDE HOTEL

Reno, Nevada

March 21, 1957

Dear Little Friend:

Thank you very much for answering our invitation to come to Reno April 3—4 and be our guests for your own first National Convention of the Midgets of America.

Rooms will be free of charge and meals, half-price to delegates. There are no strings or "gimmicks". The convention is a sincere effort by Mr. Wertheimer, owner of the Riverside, to get midgets together that they may enjoy each other's fellowship and accomplish goals, through organization, that they might not otherwise achieve.

Also, you may have read that we are trying to get free or half-price transportation for delegates to Reno. So far, unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful.

The convention will take the usual procedures of other conventions, with election of officers, passage of resolutions, etc.

We are looking forward to meeting you and your friends, who in the past have brought happiness to all of us. Our hope is that your convention will bring you the full measure of happiness and the recognition you deserve.

If you are coming, please send us a brief note so that we can make your reservation. Please include date of arrival. The latch string is out!

Sincerely,

RIVERSIDE HOTEL

*Lee Frankovich*  
Manager



What's Going On At—

## McClellan AFB

ONCE FEATURED in Ripley's "Believe It Or Not" as the world's smallest constable, Waino Johnson of McClellan's



WAINO JOHNSON

oxygen regulator repair unit dreams of a proposed colony for midgets to be located in the giant redwoods of northern California.

Standing a full 4 feet, 4 inches, Johnson asks no special favors for his size, but turns out a normal day's work at a normal work bench, repairing the oxygen regulators used by pilots of high flying aircraft.

A ski enthusiast in his youth, he once did an 80-foot jump near Hibbing, Minn., where he served as constable.

During much of his life, Johnson has been in the entertainment field, performing in night clubs, circuses, etc.

During World War II, he worked for Lockheed Aircraft Company, then after a time in Bakersfield, came to McClellan. He now talks with enthusiasm of the proposed Midget Colony.

"The whole community will be made to order," he says. "You won't have to climb on a platform to get dishes from a cupboard, and you'll be able to talk to your next door neighbor over the two-foot fence, right on your own level."

## MIDGETS FROM ALL OVER



Midgets attending their first annual convention in Reno are pictured above as they appeared yesterday at the Riverside Hotel. In the foreground is Robert Hinkson of Washington, D. C. At the registration table, taking charge of the sign-ups is Joan Coffman of Reno. The convention, which has attracted delegates from all over the United States, will last through tonight. (Photo by Gross)

## Little People's Confab Calls For Changes In Big World

McClatchy Newspapers Service

RENO, Nev.—Midgets ended their first annual convention here after electing Billy Barty of Hollywood, Calif., president of their newly formed Little People of America. Among resolutions adopted by the 27 delegates were a demand for half prices for transportation and restaurant meals, lower telephone rates in telephone booths and mass production of clothing for midgets.

The delegates voted to hold their 1958 convention here. They adjourned yesterday.

**SACRAMENTIONS.** Waino Johnson of North Sacramento is a delegate to the midget convention in Reno. And Robert Shoemaker represents Antioch, California. They get half price on everything in town, and true to the spirit of Nevada, are allowed to lose any amount on the tables... The Sixth District of the Rotary, which covers the Eastern half of Northern California, will have its convention May 12, 13 and 14 at Tahoe. 2,500 delegates... Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce held its meeting a little outside of town Monday evening. Harrah's Club at State-line, long meeting.



# LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA



**MIDGETS OF AMERICA** are shown assembled in Riverside hotel for their first convention in history. Left to right are, front row, Rocky Carr, Hollywood; Robert Shoemaker, Antioch; Launa Shelton, Phoenix; Billy Barty, Hollywood; Hilda Lange, Albany, Calif.; Robert Hinkson, Washington, D. C.; rear row, Mr. and Mrs. A. Anderson,

San Francisco; Frank Delfino, San Diego; Paul Dolinajec, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Sacramento; Richard Preston, American Fork, Utah; Dan Turner, Black Mountain, N. C.; Emil Kranzler, Minneapolis, Minn., and Stanley Osborne, Ogden. Final business session of two day conclave was under way this afternoon. (Gross photo)

## Reno May Host National Midget Parley In April

RENO, Nev.—The nation's midgets, if the plans of Billy Barty go through, will meet in convention here April 3rd and 4th to deal with "the big problems which face us little people."

Barty, who is one inch less than four feet, proposes to organize the Midgets of America. He estimates there are about 160 well proportioned midgets in the United States on the basis of one per 1,000,000 births.

## RENO'S LITTLEST, BEST PARADE



Members of the newly organized "Little People of America" paraded through downtown Reno as one of the final events of their first annual convention in Reno, and they were cheered by thousands of spectators who lined the streets. They were accompanied by the Reno High School band, which played fine

music but whose members strode off down the street to the martial music leaving the 27 midgets far in the rear. Traffic moved into the gap, and for a time there was some confusion until the band was moved to the rear of the midgets. After that things went along slowly but smoothly. (Photo by Gross)



59  
Riverside staff's views on the subject, including:

Mayor Len Harris, whose message is carried on the back page of the special, small Independent Newspaper.

George Southworth, Jr., whose candy and cigars our guests receive.

Ed Kruspe, local Schenley Distilleries representative, who provides the "liquid cheer" for each small guest.

Robert Bond, Bell Telephone Company of Nevada commercial manager, who provided the special decorative telephones for each guest. And they WORK (for "Little People")!

Al Barbagelata, of the Riverside Flower Shop, who provides the bouquets for the ladies.

The Reno Chamber of Commerce, which furnishes the badges and registration personnel.

..... And all the Young in Heart who know that wonderful things still can happen, even in a Big World which up until today did not know about the Midgets of America.

\* \* \* \* \*



# America's

Wednesday, July 22, 1964

## Littlest People's Biggest Convention

### Midget Magician Has Combined Act

By JOYCE TRENT  
DAILY NEWS Staff Writer  
Joe White was a natural for a disappearing act, being only half-size anyway.

But when the midget magician decided to combine that art with the teaching of religion a lot of people stooped down and took notice.

White illustrated his technique yesterday at the annual convention of the Little People of America at the Highway House.

He is one of 100 delegates. Others in the group include an 80-year-old midget woman who works full-time as a proof reader and two third generation midgets.

White began his career with Ringling Bros. Circus. After the big circus fire he joined a carnival and was billed as Prince Tiny, the magician.

The turning point in his life came in Wisconsin where he met the girl who later became his wife.

"She was an active worker in the church. I thought, why not combine magic with religion and that's how it all started," White explained.

During the week now he travels for a meat packing firm and on Sunday he teaches Sunday School in his unusual way.

He calls his Sunday School act, "The Gospel in a Nutshell."

He shows a box with a block in it engraved with a cross. He closes the box, saying, "And they placed Jesus in a sepulchre."

Next he opens the box. Its empty. "And they found him gone."

Then from a hat he pulls the block. "But he was reborn."

Displaying an empty picture frame he says, "These are the empty hearts of some boys and girls." When he next shows it, it contains a picture of Christ to illustrate what happens when God fills the heart.

White makes three ropes blend in the air to show the Trinity, and pours endless amounts of water from a tiny vial onto a toy ship to portray the story of Noah.

He's received little criticism and many compliments for his way of teaching, he says, and has found fulfillment for himself.

Lola Cox is not a magician but she's a sprightly little midget and to look at her one couldn't guess she is 80 years old. She proved yesterday she wasn't a bit timid either.

In the heart of Goldwater country she proclaimed she didn't plan to vote for the Republican senator for president.

"I don't think he's for the little people," she said.

"I mean the working people, not just us midgets," she explained.

She hails from San Francisco where she is a proof-reader for a type setting service. After 44 years on the job she thinks she may retire next year. "I'm not sure though," she added with a



THIRD GENERATION--The youngsters in this picture are third generation midgets. They are the grandchildren of Johnny Clifton, also shown, who travels the country for Buster Brown shoes. From Left, granddaughter Donna Lee Swensen, 13; Mrs. Clifton; granddaughter Nancy Gayle, 18. They reside in Austin, Tex.

twinkle in her eyes.

It's very rare for a family to have third generation midgets. But that's the case with the Johnny Clifton family of Austin, Tex., who are attending the convention.

Their granddaughters are accompanying them. Clifton was the midget who traveled for Buster Brown shoes.

The midgets are an enter-

taining lot for the motel personnel. The employees were warned of the group's size before they arrived, especially the bartenders who, otherwise, might have thought they had had too much when a midget strode up to the bar and said:

"Let me have a tall one."

And that's what some of them did.

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# AMARILLO *Tri-State Edition* GLOBE-TIMES

45th Year, No. 107

24 Pages

10 Cents

Amarillo, Texas, Tuesday, July 20, 1965

114C.



Tiny Billy Barty snaps photo of Lee Kitchens (left) and William Albaugh planning annual Little People of America Convention with Don Hughes, manager of Holiday Inn, Gloucester, N. J.

## 200 Meet in Gloucester

## Little People Peeved By Small Minds of Their Big Neighbors

By ROSE DeWOLF  
Of The Inquirer Staff

MIDGETS and dwarfs sometimes find the going rough in a big world. But their problems come not from the fellow with a tall physique but from the guy with a narrow mind.

Some 200 members of Little People of America, Inc., all under four feet, 11 inches in height—are meeting this week in the Holiday Inn in Gloucester, N. J.

Their purpose is not only to enjoy themselves, but also to look the rest of the world in the eye and tell them that little people are different only in size. They measure up fine in talent, taste and intelligence.

"All of us have to make an adjustment," says Lee Kitchens, Texas engineer, who is president of the organization. "And, in that, we help one another. We try to impress the normal parents of 'little-littles' that they must treat the children no differently than if they were regular size.

"But most of the things most people talk about when referring to little people are not real problems — just annoyances."

Buying clothes for instance. It's hard for the little ladies to buy adult high heels. Buying insurance. For the same reason, little people are considered riskier. Driving cars. They must install "extensions" on the gas and brake pedals. Using a public telephone. Tall folks don't see the little caller, barge right into the booth.

"BUT there are advantages, too," says Harriet Hoppert, a Milwaukee school teacher, "particularly in my field. The children like the idea of my being physically on their level but mentally above them."

The little people are, contrary to public opinion, not a bunch of show business types. Most are professional people.

"We have every occupation here but basketball players," says Dr. Robert Spector, a duPont chemist from Wilmington.

The organization was founded seven years ago by actor Billy Barty (three feet six) who is best known for his role on Peter Gunn. Barty made an appeal to little people and attracted 21 to the first convention.

Today, there are 2000 names on the mailing list.

Barty says his pet peeve about the Gullivers of this world is their tendency to treat the little people like children. And this, they definitely are not.

The little people may be small but they don't want anybody looking down on them. The motto of the organization: "Think Big." What else?



—AP Wirephoto  
Claudia Bishop, 17, of Douglasville, Ga., who is just 3-foot 11 inches tall, illustrates one of the problems that beset shorties in a tall world. She and Eileen Shanahan, 23, of Chicago, are members of Little People of America, Inc., an organization of persons less than 4-foot 11 inches tall.

## Tall World Problem for Little Folk

By TOM SEPPY

GLoucester, N.J. (AP) — Did you ever visit a hotel and find the shower spigots too high?

Or have you tried to make a telephone call and found the mouthpiece too far above the floor?

Most likely not. But then, you're probably not one of the "little people."

Some 250 persons were expected today for the seventh annual convention of Little People of America Inc.

The only requisite for admission to the organization is that the applicant be less than 4 feet, 11 inches tall.

The group has about 1,800 members "and there are probably many more in the United States (who qualify) but we haven't heard of them," said a spokesman.

"We have problems that normal people don't have," said George Baehm III of New York City. "At these annual conventions we are able to discuss those problems in addition to introducing little people to other little people."

"Had I not gone to the convention in North Carolina in 1962," said the 4-foot tall Baehm, "I'd not have met my wife." Baehm's wife, Christine or "Tina," is 3-feet-11.

Baehm, who works for his family's Baehm Container Co., said among the problems facing little people is employment.

"As the public is becoming adjusted to our size," he said, "more opportunities arise."

Very few of Little People of America's members are employed in show business, he said. They are active in "almost every occupation you can think of."

Probably the biggest problem facing them is simply that the world is designed for tall people.



# Little Women Set Style Flair



Gazette Staff Photos by Carol Osman Brown

First place prize winners at the fashion show presented by Little People of America, Inc., at the HiwayHouse, were: Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., left, Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, on chair, and right, Mrs. Billy Barty of North Hollywood, Calif., wife of the organization's founder. Chairman of the show was Mrs. Bob Brower of Phoenix, center. She was assisted by Miss Frances Conville of Decatur, Ga., second left, new national secretary.



A surprise feature of the Little People's fashion show came when brides appeared to give members a glimpse of their ensembles. Models receive a helping hand from their respective husbands. From left are Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix and Mr. and Mrs. George A. Baehm III of Great Neck, N.Y.

By CAROL OSMAN BROWN  
Gazette Staff Writer

Most individuals are familiar with the classic novel "Little Women," but few have an opportunity to attend an actual gathering of doll-like ladies.

However, this week the Little People of America, Inc. are holding their sixth annual national convention in Phoenix. Thus a wide range of midgets, dwarfs and miniature people from all parts of the nation are at the Hiway-House.

Wherever there are women there is bound to be an interest in fashion. So it was only natural that one of the highlights of the confab, which concludes today, was a style show.

"Little People either buy small-size big people's clothing and children's apparel, have garments tailored, or make their own clothes," reveals Mrs. Bob (Marcella) Brower, wife of the group's retiring president.

Shoes also present a major problem. Most of these women admit that they purchase high heeled shoes from speciality houses whenever possible but often have to resort to wearing children's footwear.

"We can get by with using standard size furniture, office equipment, and other items, but our clothes just have to be styled on a smaller scale," quipped one vivacious little miss.

Chairman of the fashion show, Marcella explained that the styles were divided into three categories: tailor-made, hand-made and store-bought, altered items. Everything from sportswear to evening attire was modeled by the Little Women, who amazed the audience with their versatile sewing ability.

One of the most enjoyable showings was that of children's clothing. Models were Little People's children who wore items created by their parents or grandparents. Store-bought infant and baby clothes can often be worn by these children till they reach ages of late childhood.

"But as we 'grow up' it becomes harder and harder to find more sophisticated clothing needed for attending

dances, night clubs and restaurants," admitted a small charmer, clad in stunning formal attire for the show.

A surprise feature of the annual event was the appearance of three little couples who were wed during the past year. "Since many of the members had wished to attend the marriages, but were unable to, I thought it would be nice if they could at least see the brides as they were on their wedding day," smiled Marcella, who served as matron of honor for Mrs. Maurice Alden of Phoenix.

First place winners in the fashion show were Miss Barbara De Volt of Cleveland, Ohio, who won in the tailor-made class wearing a black chiffon, hand-beaded evening gown she created herself; Miss Frances Billingsley of Snyder, Tex., who wore a ready-made dressy white cotton for the store-bought division. Winner of the self-made cotton category was Mrs. Billy Barty of N. Hollywood, Calif., wife of the actor who formed the organization in 1955. She appeared in a pale blue ensemble accented by an attractive white lace coat. Her accessories were of matching blue.

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—Herald-Examiner Photo

## REGARDLESS, IT'S A BIG STEP

Aileen Henderson, Lenus Garman wed by Fr. Michael Casey

## Little People, Big Wedding

A young dwarf couple was honeymooning at Big Bear Lake today after their marriage yesterday, attended by friends and relatives — many of the little people too.

Aileen Henderson, 19, and Lenus Garman, 25, were married in a brief ceremony at St. Maria Regina Catholic Church in Gardena. Father Michael Casey officiated.

Following the ceremony, the young couple was honored at a reception at the Palomino Nightclub in North Hollywood, where the bride was formerly employed.

Garman is a stockman for a catering firm in Van Nuys. The couple met through friends who are dwarfs. They will make their home in Van Nuys.

Maid of honor and best man were Mr. and Mrs. William Norvelle, also little people.



**LITTLE PEOPLE, BIG HEARTS**—It's grand for small folk at Holiday Inn near Gloucester City, N. J., as Little People of America hold annual convention. Sophia Juck (right), inn hostess who's 5-foot-7, leads some of group on tour of grounds.

Daily News Photo by Charles Myers

## Big Time for the Little People

By NELS NELSON

Life isn't necessarily easier if all your problems are little ones.

How does one eat in the automat, for example, if the coin slots are beyond reach?

"Don't be ashamed to ask for help," advised Robert Spector, who stands 4 feet 5 in his thickest soles. "Be realistic. After all, there are worse handicaps than being small."

"I have no qualms, for example, about asking someone in the supermarket to get something for me off the top shelf, where it usually is."

**THE ADVANTAGES** of thinking big loom large in the lives of the Little People of America, and of citizens whom nearly everybody looks down on, for their tallest member cannot tip the by-laws any higher than 4 feet 9.

"The problems involved in being small are mostly psychological," said Spector, 31, of 4308 Miller rd., Wilmington. "Such as, feeling sorry for oneself and taking the view that it's useless to bother trying for something that seems out of reach."

Spector, a technical writer for E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., points out that other Little People hold positions of great responsibility in vocational endeavors.

"One popular misconception we take pains to correct is that most Little People are in show business. Actually, less than 3 percent of our membership is in this category."

**SPECTOR** is coordinator of the 7th annual national convention of the LPA, which opened four days of sessions yesterday at the Holiday Inn, Gloucester City, N. J. About 90 Little People have arrived from far-flung places. The total may reach 150.

One of the events will be a choose-up softball game on the nearby Gloucester High School athletic field. The only concession to size will be the use of Little League bats.

A good many of the convention doings are frankly social.

"We're no matrimonial agency," said Spector, "but quite a few marriages have resulted from our meetings. I'm an example. I met my wife, the former Mary Taylor of Westmont, N. J., through friends I made among the Little People."

**FURNISHING** a house does not appear to present any problems among Little Newlyweds. "We're comfortable in normalized furniture," Spector explained, "and we do have people as guests who are normalized. Of course, you may find more than the usual quota of stepladders around the house."

Among the problems, other than psychological, which the Little People bandy about at their gatherings are those presented by clothing, jobs, insurance, auto extensions and phone booths.

OF BENNETT BROS. FURNITURE

WHY

Glendale Ave.

WESTINGHOUSE • PHILCO •  
ZENITH • SYLVANIA  
APPLIANCES, TELEVISION





A LITTLE PURCHASE -- Marvin Bly of Si Falls, S. D., takes a break from swimming to select a pair of sun glasses in motel lobby. (NEWS fotos by Frank Separ



LONG DISTANCE?--Lee Wright of Hooks, Tex., demonstrates how a midget uses a pay phone.



YOUNG 'UN--The youngest midget at the convention was 6-year-old Libby Kelly born of normal size parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly of Denver, Colo. She stands 26 1/2 inches high.

## MIDGETS CROWN NEW KING, QUEEN

The Little People of America had a new royal family today -- all miniatures.

Queen Frieda Groeneveld, 26, of Tacoma, Wash., and King Felix Silla, 30, of 11218 1/2 Morrison St., North Hollywood, were crowned last night during coronation ceremonies held in the Hollywood Room of the Hollywood Knickerbocker Hotel.

Mrs. Groeneveld, a kindergarten teacher, cried after receiving her crown, saying: "It's wonderful." She has blond hair, hazel eyes, weighs 95 pounds and stands 3 feet 11 inches tall.

Silla stands 3 feet 10 inches tall and weighs 62 pounds.

The organization's new teen-

queen and king are: Miss Lydia Thomas, 16, of Detroit, and Tom Henderson, 17, of 14930 Dublin Ave., Gardena.

Named princess and prince of the diminutive convention among the children were: Mimi Wade, 7, of San Diego, and George Rossitto, 12, of 1137 Fuller Ave., Hollywood.

Among those taking part on the program were President Lee Kitchens and his wife Mary of Richardson, Texas, and actor Billy Barty, the LPA founder, of North Hollywood.

The 300 "little" people will close their week long 1967 national convention here tomorrow afternoon.





JOURNALIST? One of the oldest midgets in the country, Mrs. Lola Cox, 80, of San Francisco, still is in good form and holds down a job as a proofreader.



\*\*\*\*\*

ABRACADABRA—Midget magician Joe White of Kenosha, Wisc. combines his art with the Gospel. He travels all over the country pulling crosses out of hats and performing other tricks to illustrate religious texts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Daily NEWSfotos  
By Frank Sepanski

ALOHA--Mrs. Marcella Brower, wife of the national president of the Little People of America, does the hula at a Hawaiian dance during the convention yesterday.



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Leon Hale

"HOUSTON POST"



# Maybe You Saw Shorty In That Tarzan Movie

G. C. (Shorty) Simmans stood in the living room of his home at 205 Archer and held a stick in front of himself, showing he measures exactly 36 inches from the floor to the end of his nose.

"I tell 'em," he said, grinning, "that I'm 3 feet and 4 inches tall, and I am when I stand up straight."

**TRAILING THE YARDSTICK**, Shorty eased across the room and settled in a little blue chair, about the size of one a man might make for his 5-year-old daughter.

You may remember Shorty if you attended movies at the North Main Theatre any time between 1936 and 1961. He sold popcorn there in the stand next door. He's retired now and the stand is gone.

It's even possible you saw Shorty on television recently, if you stay up late enough on Friday night or get up early enough on Saturday morning to catch the older of the old movies. In the first Tarzan movie that starred Maureen O'Sullivan and Johnny Weissmuller, Simmans was king of the pygmies and had five wives.

**BUT NOW HERE HE WAS** in his easy chair, talking about what he'd invited me out to hear.

"About 10 years ago," Shorty said, and his voice came deep and strong and well enunciated, "an organization was begun called Little People of America, Inc. Billy Barty—maybe you know of him, he's a dwarf, too, in show business out on the West Coast—Billy had a lot to do with starting it.

**"ANYWAY IT'S A NON-PROFIT** organization and our goals are to get all these shorties like me acquainted with each other and to show the public that we're people. It's been a wonderful thing.

"In Texas and Louisiana, which is District 8

of the organization, we've got over a hundred dues-paying members. We get together once in awhile, and when you're with other little people it's a great thing. You don't feel like a misfit at all. Just makes you glow.

**"YOU KNOW, WE CAN DO** anything other people can do, except be tall. And sometimes we figure out ways to do that."

As if to illustrate, he walked over and turned on the overhead lights at a wall switch, adapted with a pull chain so he can reach it.

"What I thought," Simmans said, returning to his chair, "if you write anything about the organization, you could say how other little people can get in touch with our District 8 chairman. He's Lee Wright, and they can write to him at Box 296 at Hooks, Texas. That's up around Texarkana.

**"OR THEY CAN CALL ME HERE** at UN 4-9529. I'm trying to stir up some local interest. We haven't got but about six members in Houston and I know there's a lot of little people around here. Woods are full of 'em.

"We're trying to persuade the parents of dwarfs and midgets," Simmans went on, "to educate these children. Most of the time they keep 'em at home and protect 'em and that's the wrong thing to do. Why, we've got school teachers in our organization now, and our national president, Lee Kitchens of Richardson, is an electronics engineer. And just a few years ago, we weren't supposed to have any sense at all."

**SIMMANS CERTAINLY** wasn't protected. He left home after high school sold magazines door to door, became a circus clown, made movies, ran the popcorn stand for 25 years.

"Think big," he said. "That's our organization's motto." Then he grinned again. "Me, I feel 90, think 30, and I'm actually 66."



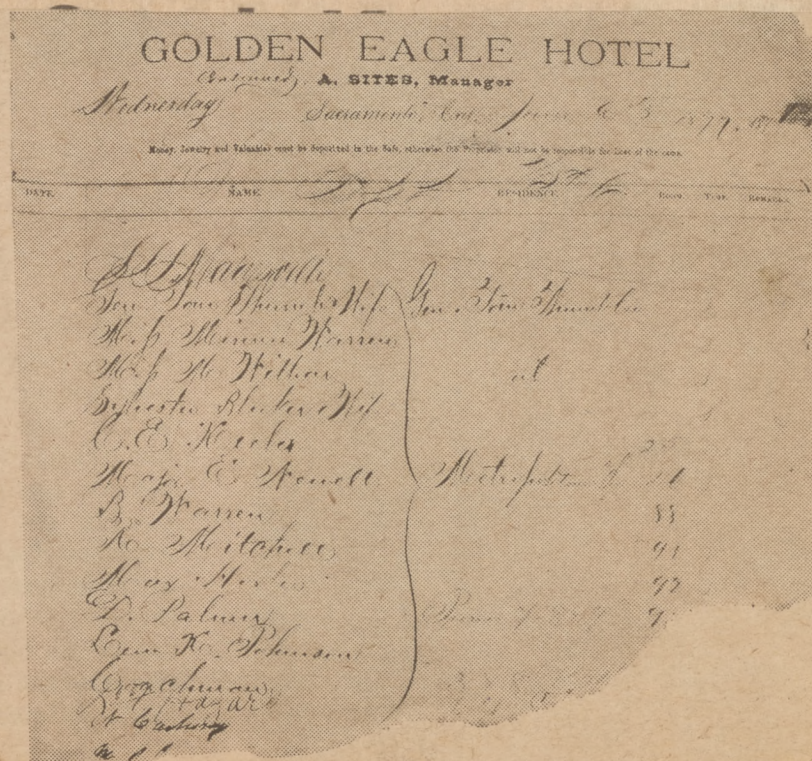
American-Statesman/UPI

**BIG LITTLE MEETING** — Lee Wright and Robert Anderson, members of Little People of America, talk to Carol Swenson, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Swenson, 1200 Crestwood. About 45 midgets and dwarfs gathered at the home of the Swensons and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Clifton, Carol's grandparents. Carol is the

only full-sized person in the household, including her two sisters. The Little People met Saturday to discuss plans for bringing a national LPA convention to Austin next year. Wright, from Hooks, Texas, is the chairman of the Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana district. Anderson is from San Antonio.



—AP Wirephoto





## • Convention

(Continued from Page 1A)

little people" as they are called.

Saturday afternoon at the convention was spent discussing the problems the little people face.

"Sure a lot of the kids have some problems," Caelino said. "The parents' auxiliary was formed to help the kids learn to face the public. We hope to get the kids to join the club. I know when they see how we act it gives them a lot of confidence," said Caelino.

**OTHER THAN** being short, the little people lead lives very similar to average-sized persons.

They drive cars, hold down responsible positions, bear children and aren't very different than anyone else.

"Lots of people get the wrong impression, but only two per cent of the little people are show people," Caelino said. One of those show people, Billy Bart, is the outgoing president and is in attendance at the convention.

Mrs. Alfred Stickney, vice president of the chapter, pointed out the organization works closely with any groups doing research on dwarfism.

"**WE'RE ONE** group that is trying to eliminate itself," she smiled.

She said that special mechanical devices are used to help the little people in doing the tasks, such as driving an auto or pushing an elevator button, that would come more easily for an average-sized person.

Mrs. Stickney, a former schoolteacher who retired to raise a family, said that while she was teaching she found she had more empathy for her students because of her small size.

"There wasn't this big creature hovering over them all day long," she said.

Caelino urged any little people or people who know of little people who are not members of the non-profit organization to call him at 526-6226 in Concord.

# Big Convention For Little People

Concord is being visited by the little people this weekend.

The Little People of America, an organization of dwarfs and their children, held its district convention in Concord.

The purpose of the convention was to elect officers and discuss some of the problems that are common to people who are smaller than average.

Neno Caelino, a past president of the Bay Area chapter of the organization and this year's convention chairman, pointed out, "We're just as average as a six-footer. The only distance we have to conquer is that between our ears."

A RICHMOND machinist, Caelino and his wife, who is also dwarfed, have four children. Two boys are dwarfed and two girls are average-sized.

"Size is determined by God's will," Caelino explained.

He said that many little people have hard times finding jobs — but emphasized that once they have proven their ability, employers look at them in a different light.

"We have people in all the different fields. Name any job and you'll find a little person there. We have machinists, teachers, accountants, engineers — you name it," Caelino declared.

**CAELINO** explained that one of the main functions of the organization is to help the dwarf children, or the "little

(Continued on Page 2A, Col.3)



**A SMALL MINORITY VISITS CONCORD**

Mr. and Mrs. Neno Caelino and Mel Cohen of Pleasant Hill take part in a discussion at a district convention of the Little People of America in Concord. Caelino was chairman of the convention which had 50 dwarfs in attendance. Cohen is the president of Human Growth, Inc., a Pleasant Hill growth-research organization.

1969



# Stories About Unrest in Detroit Don't Jibe With War Production

BY BESS STEPHENSON.

DETROIT, Sept. 4—Detroit, the roaring arsenal of democracy, was examining itself in the light of two recent magazine articles when the All-Girl War Production Tour arrived to go through the colossal war plants built on the dormant foundations of the automobile industry.

The magazines had referred to Detroit as a hot spot, which might succeed in blowing up the Axis—or in blowing up America. They dwelt alarmingly on labor unrest, slowdowns, confusion, bad housing and bad tempers. They had said that Detroit could be producing 10 times the war goods she now is producing if tangles and tempers were unsnarled.

We got a variety of answers, but

**Editor's Note:** The tour, from which the accompanying study was dispatched, was arranged by the National Association of Manufacturers to enable girl reporters to survey the "woman in war industry" question at first hand. Other big industrial plants will be visited on the nationwide tour.

no blanket denials, from the industrial executives we questioned about the two articles. The best of all, substantiated by everything we saw in Detroit, was the answer given by C. F. Kettering, General Motors' rare philosopher and vice president in charge of research.

**Tells Story With Moral.**

Kettering said that one time in a small plant that was doing exceedingly well, he conducted a psychological experiment. It seems that 99 per cent of the materials going into the shops were coming out as fine, high-grade finished products. Only 1 per cent was going into the scrap heap.

Kettering decided to stack the scrap in a sideyard, where all could see it, and watch the pile grow. Every day, he looked out at the pile and said, "Tsk, Tsk," where all could hear.

"The result was," he said, "that I all but succeeded in completely demoralizing the plant. I would have, but for a smart foreman. This fellow went out and had a picture made of the scrap pile. Then he had a print enlarged 90 times. He brought the two pictures into a conference the next day and said, 'There! The big picture is what we're doing. The little one is what we're not doing.'"

Kettering's moral was obvious.

"When you view our war production effort," he said, "be sure you see the big picture—not the scrap."

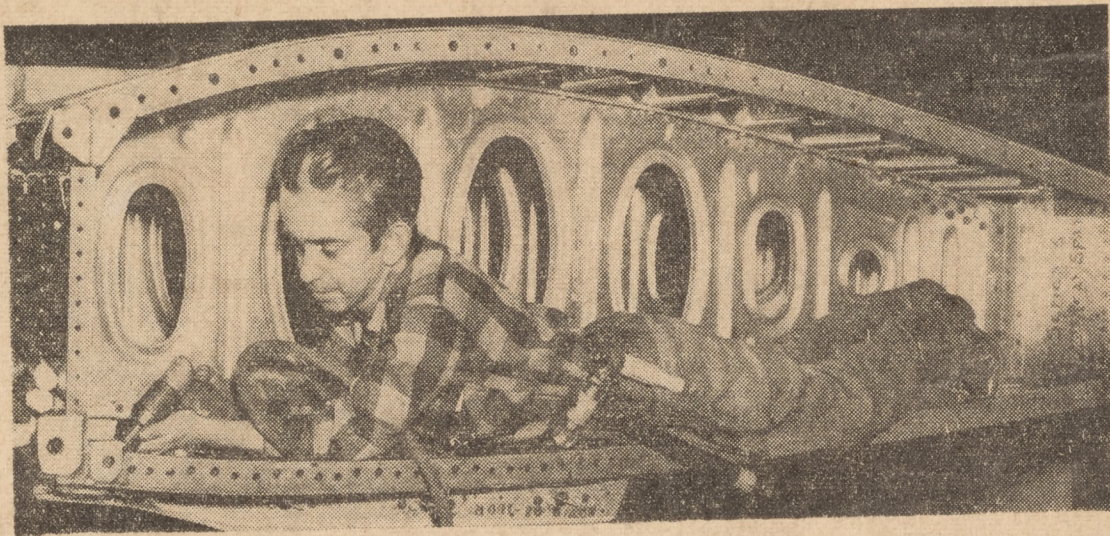
**Seeming Turmoil Expected.**

Kettering said that 99.1 per cent of war production is running along in a fine, normal way and that seeming turmoil is to be expected until the war is over.

"Don't expect," he said, "to get any long-range, perfect agreement among people. You don't get that in time of war. The only thing I've been concerned about is how many little civil wars we can keep going and still run a World War."

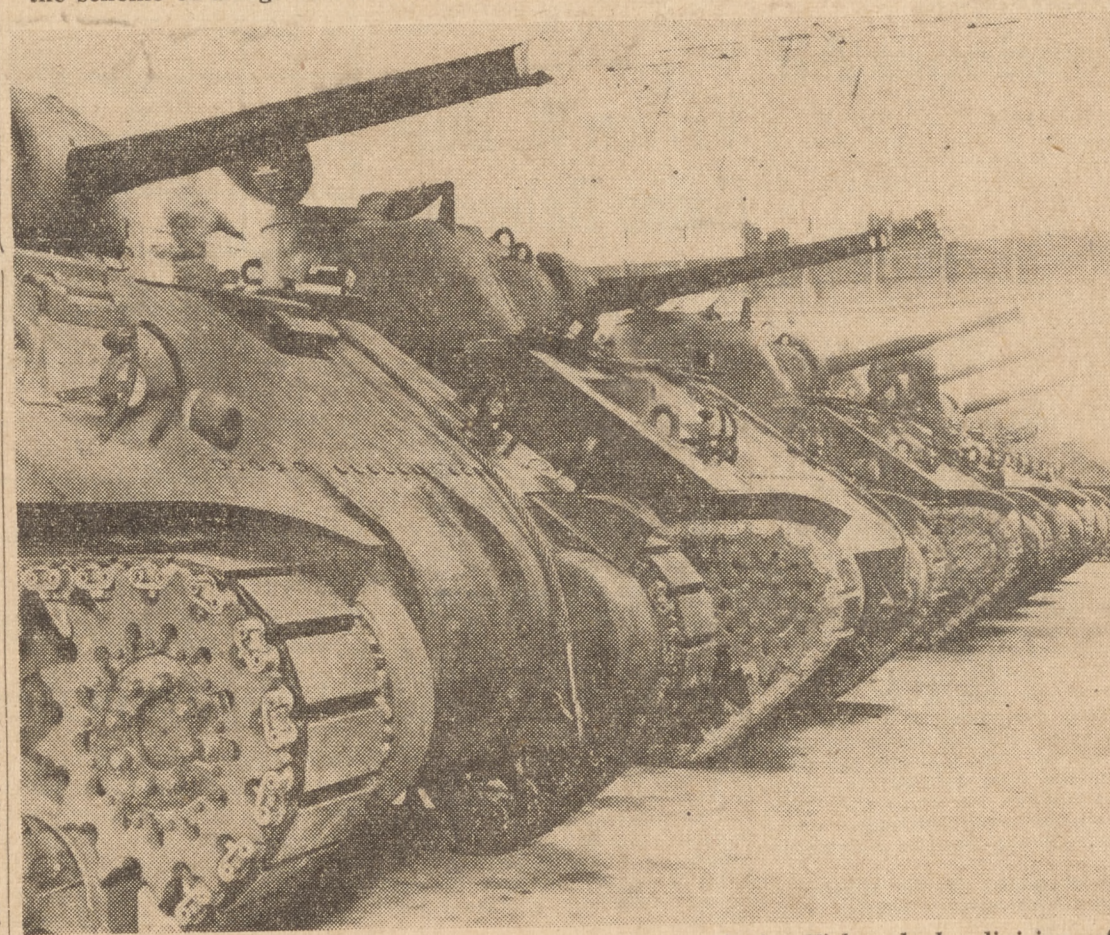
C. E. Wilson, the president, and other General Motors officials confirmed Kettering's optimistic view of what occasionally seems like turmoil and confusion in the war effort. Wilson did it with amazingly impressive production figures and with charts to show how General Motors engineers have and are solving the problems of time and materials and the greedy appetites of a new rolling war machine.

One chart showed how 246.9 tons of nickel and 117.85 tons of chrome can be saved in certain (secret) measurements of armor plate, through new process developments. Another showed how three operations and 42 minutes now are saved on each Browning machinegun.



Brownie Rogers, four-foot rodeo cowboy from Oklahoma, who fits right into the scheme of things at the Willow Run

Ford plant because he fits right into wing crevices with a rivet gun.



Trainload quantities of these all-welded M-4 tanks with their formidable 75 mm. cannon are shipped daily from

plants of the Fisher body division of General Motors.

the rifling of automatic aircraft machineguns, the most phenomenal saving of all occurs. One hour and twenty minutes is now saved on each gun.

**Conversion to War Absolute.**

In war materials produced and delivered, General Motors will come close to tying this year its best peacetime commercial record. That means two billion dollars worth of war tools produced in plants and factories which a year ago were turning out automobiles and other items looked on now as luxuries. The conversion to war is absolute and the forecast is that within another year, General Motors will have more than doubled its best peacetime production on record.

In the staggering vastness of the Ford plant at Willow Run, C. E. Sorensen gave a shorter answer to the charge that Detroit is a hotbed of doubt and confusion.

"Just leave us alone," he said.

It was the same answer he'd given to the Truman senatorial investigating committee when that body visited Willow Run and suggested that "maybe we can help out in the labor situation."

"Just leave us alone," he said, "we'll do all right."

He was neither angered, nor disturbed by the view of Detroit as expressed in the sister magazines.

"There is in no sense the confusion talked about," he said, "but sometimes when you hit us hard enough, it does some good in the long run. In the last 12 months, we have had our differences naturally. But the situation has improved. Detroit is in good shape."

**Answers Criticism.**

The Fort executive voiced utter confidence that Willow Run will be turning out bombers (the Consolidated B-24) in all the quantities anticipated from the beginning very soon. He answered for the first time, with a wry crack, the charge made by a West Coast aircraft manufacturer that the automotive industry would never be able to get into large-scale production of war planes.

The charge was made by J. H. Kindelberger, president of North American Aircraft Company, in Kansas City in May. He was speaking then to a group of newspapermen, assembled from all over the

country as we are for a tour of war production. Sorensen gave his answer.

"I think we'll name the first bomber," he said, "the Dutch Kindelberger."

Girl reporters wanted to know when the first Ford-made B-24 bomber would roll off the assembly lines at Willow Run.

"Maybe tomorrow," said Sorensen, "I'm not permitted to say."

**Staggering Production 'Soon'.**

Ford's new and mighty Willow Run plant had been the subject of conjecture all through the 13 days the girl reporters had been on their War Production Tour. They had heard the charge on the West Coast, not that Ford is falling down, but that he had promised too much and too speedy miracles when he

went into the production of airplanes.

What the reporters saw at Willow Run was the colossal plant, filled with machinery and with men and women at work on all machines. How speedily they will be trained and the shops all geared for the staggering production of which the plant is capable, we couldn't tell by looking. The word we have from Sorensen is that it will be "soon."

The plan still holds for Willow Run to supply bomber parts for the Douglas assembly plant at Tulsa. Something "seems to have happened," Sorensen said, to the original plan that it would also make parts for Consolidated at Fort Worth. Consolidated now is set to make its own.

One cute, little familiar figure showed up unexpectedly on the assembly line at Willow Run to make it old home week for a gal from Texas and for Lt. Col. W. S. McDuffee. Colonel McDuffee is stationed at Willow Run as Air Force representative, administering the business of the air branch in all Ford's war enterprises.

This little guy we ran onto is Brownie Rogers, the rodeo midget. He was snuggled in a wing crevice, hard at work with a rivet gun, as we passed by. His work clothes consisted of a bashed and battered cowboy hat, loud plaid shirt, boots and levis.

The four-foot cowboy came up from Oklahoma to find a welcome opening at Willow run. They need him for work in the tight squeezes of the assembly line. He's getting along fine, thank you.



The normal folks who stop to stare  
at the giant, the bearded lady and the  
alligator-skinned man often amuse—

# THE STRANGE PEOPLE OF

## GIBSONTON



Emmet Bejano, the alligator-skinned man, has a happy home life with Priscilla, the bearded lady.

By JACK DENTON SCOTT

Nine miles south of Tampa, just off U. S. Route 41, Gibsonton, a place most people would find hard to believe, lies dreaming in the Florida sun. The president of its Chamber of Commerce, Al Tomaini, who has also been fire chief, stands eight feet four and a half inches in his size-22 shoes and weighs 356 pounds. One of the law enforcement officers is his best friend and fishing companion, "Colonel" Casper Balsam, who is just a smidgen over three feet tall.

Giants, midgets, pinheads, tattooed men, bearded ladies, women lugging big snakes instead of handbags saunter around Gibsonton as if they owned the place—and they do. Because Gibsonton is the carnival capital of America, the place where freaks and show people live when they aren't on the road.

The population peak of 1,000 is reached in mid-winter when the show folk come back to Gibsonton to rest, fix up their houses and gardens, mend fences and relations with their neighbors.

Eddie Le May, a carnival concessionaire and "cook house" operator, discovered the town when it was nothing but a dirt road over 30 years ago, moved there because fishing in the broad Alafia River was the best he had ever found, and the scattering of people who lived thereabouts were good-natured and friendly.

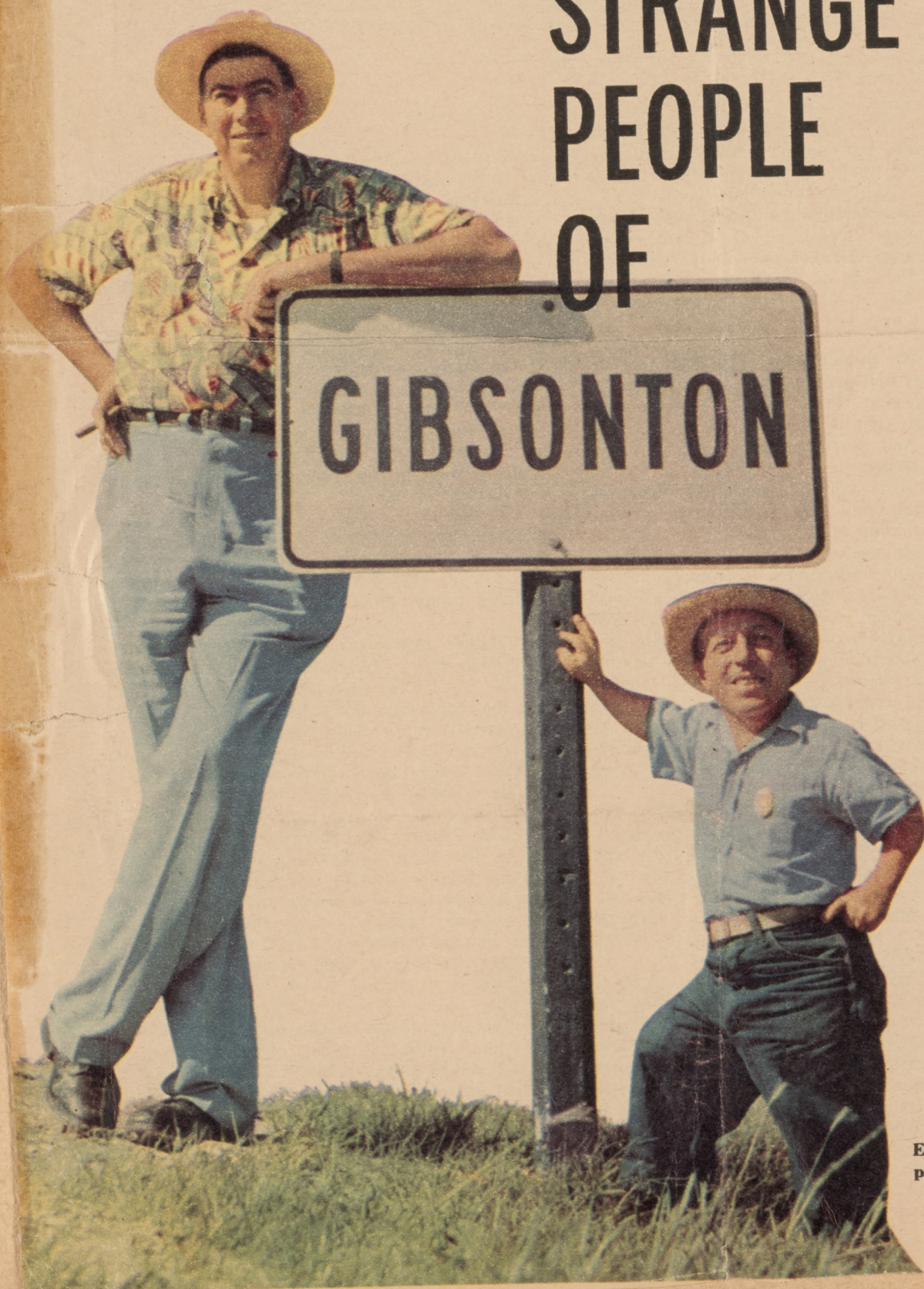
As Eddie has talent with words, his subsequent raves about the place brought curious carnival folk who came to investigate, stayed with Eddie and his wife Grace, until they could find a place to park their trailers or build their homes.

Al Tomaini liked the fishing and the Alafia River so much that he converted mud flats and old shacks into a modern trailer camp, put up a restaurant and created "The Giant's Fishing Camp." He donated the town's ambulance, became fire chief, designed the community hall and had himself and his tiny pal, Colonel Casper Balsam, sworn in as deputy sheriffs.

Although there are normal people (Eddie Le May, for one, who is still considered town father and prophet) in and around Gibsonton, it's citizens like Gilbert Tracey and his wife (midgets, who have a circus act that involves trained midget animals, a dwarf donkey, a white-faced Hereford and a Palomino stallion) and Bobby Jean Taylor (the Dog-Faced Girl) who are the aristocrats and real pillars of Gibsonton society.

The town's wheels are turned by them and by other

Eight-foot-four-and-a-half-inch Al Tomaini poses with his pint-size neighbor and fishing pal, "Colonel" Casper Balsam.







**MAJOR MIDGET MATTERS**—Times reporter discusses problems of midgets with members of Little People of America, Inc., left to right, Jerry Marens,

Felix Silla, Billy Barty, founder, and Lee Kitchens, president. Barty, a television personality, said too many have wrong idea about ability of little people.

Times photo by Bruce Cox

## MIDGETS DEFEND ABILITY

### It's Only the Big Nuisances That Bother Little People

"We don't have any problems—just nuisances."

Problems, explains 4-foot, 1-inch Lee Kitchens, "mean you are looking for answers. We already know the answers."

Kitchens, a Richardson, Tex., resident who manages an engineering branch for Texas Instruments, Inc., is president of Little People of America, Inc.

More than 200 of the wee folk—all under 4 feet, 10 inches—gathered at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Monday for a week of social events and consideration of some of the "nuisances."

Clothing and finding a job are among the major ones, Kitchens says—particularly jobs.

"The trouble is too many little people are not qualified for the work they want to do," says the engineer. "This gives them an added handicap on top of their size."

Billy Barty, 3-foot, 9½-inch

television and movie personality who founded the group in 1957, adds another area.

"Preconceived notions on the part of big people," he says. "Too many have the wrong idea about the abilities and intelligence of little people."

Both Barty and Kitchens say they don't know what a "normal" person is. They refer to people taller than they as "big people."

Jerry Marens, 4 feet, 3 inches, has another complaint:

"We get paid according to our size," he says.

Barty uses the term "midget" to explain the general lack of knowledge about dwarfism: A midget is a type of dwarf who is perfectly proportioned but "about two-thirds size."

"They have already classified 40 to 50 types of dwarfs," he says, and "we're helping them to find more."





Midgets, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Tracey, with the dwarf donkey, Hereford cow and Palomino stallion featured in their circus act.

stalwarts like the alligator-skinned man, Emmet Bejano, and his charming wife, Priscilla, the bearded lady, sometimes called the monkey girl.

Al Tomaini's wife, Jeanie, was born without lower limbs, and was billed as the acrobatic half-girl at the Great Lakes Exposition where she met and fell in love with the towering Tomaini in 1936.

Gibsonton may be the only town in the world where freaks are considered normal and normalcy is not a social asset. But it is a town with heart: When "Happy Dot" Blackhall, the 602-pound fat lady, was ill a couple of years ago, Jeanie somehow got over there and kept house for her

friend until Dot was able to get up and about again.

Gibtowners (the carnival crowd shorten the name to Gibtown) pitch in and help one another build their homes, cut their grass, tend the sick, aid the needy. When a civic need arises, such as a fire department, the whole community pulls together.

Gibsonton sprawls over 1,000 flat acres which are spotted with 900 houses, two churches, several grocery stores and other assorted places of business, a tiny post office, three trailer parks, and, the nub, The Giant's Fishing Camp. It's a conservative Republican town. In the last election the 800 registered voters all went GOP.

It's a stop-and-stare town, too. People passing by on Route 41 can't resist the temptation to park their cars and take a look at the strange people of Gibsonton. While I was there last spring at The Giant's Fishing Camp, a middle-aged, mid-western couple came into the TV repair shop where Al Tomaini was tinkering with Colonel Casper's ailing TV set. They stared at Al for a moment and hurried out.

"Happens all the time," Al said, grinning. "They just wanted a peek at the giant. I don't mind though. I'm peek-proof."

Most Gibtowners are. There are so many of their own kind living in happy harmony in the little Florida town they have made their own that they find the rubber-necking from passing tourists amusing. "We just stare back," said tiny Mrs. Tracey. "This is our home. These people who look us over as if we aren't real are funny. Sometimes they make me laugh right out loud."

Photographs by Ozzie Sweet



Curious visitors to the Florida town of Gibsonton seldom try to get chummy with Sailor Katzy, the snake-charming tattooed man and the 70-pound rock python he calls Queenie.

## MEETING HERE

# Little People Talk Over Big Topics

Approximately 40 persons will wind up the annual convention of Dist. 8 Little People of America, Inc., in Lubbock today with a devotional service.

The "Little People" (4 feet 10 inches is the maximum height for membership) and their "Little Littles" (children) opened the convention at Rodeway Inn

Motel Friday. Registration was conducted Friday and Saturday morning. The convention proper got underway Saturday afternoon.

### Topics Discussed

Principal business of the convention was discussion of problems faced by Little People in a world made for "big people." They also exchanged suggestions for possible solutions to many of the problems. Another objective was preparation for the non-profit organization's national convention to begin in Minneapolis, Minn., July 28.

Also at Saturday's afternoon session, Lee Kitchens of Richardson, past national president, discussed and showed slides of a tour he recently made of England. At the Saturday night session speaker was C. C. Perryman, a retired Texas Tech professor whose daughter is Mrs. Kitchens. Perryman showed slides and discussed a tour he recently made of Europe and Russia.



**WATER'S FINE** — Dally Blane, right of Fort Worth, who is attending the District 8 annual convention of the Little People of America, and an unidentified "big person" prepare to dive into the pool at Rodeway Inn Motel Saturday afternoon. (Staff Photo by Gerry Burton)

### Two Chapters Formed

George T. Cromwell Jr. of Fort Worth, District 8 chairman, was in charge of the convention. Miss Nancy Kelley of Grapevine is district secretary and president of the district's Dal-Worth Metropolitan Area Chapter.

The district, which includes Texas and Louisiana, recently has begun dividing itself into chapters. So far, two have been formed. These are the Dal-Worth Metropolitan Area Chapter and the Houston Area chapter.



# World of Little People

By EDDY JO BERNAL  
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

**T**HE old maxim that the nicest things come in small packages was proven the other day when Sadie Delfino opened the door into "the world of the Little People."

Her apartment door was the gate to the world of miniature people who stand from 46 to 54 inches tall against a civilization of average sized adults.

It's a world where making a phone call in an outdoor telephone booth is an impossibility.

A world where getting of water from the kitchen tap is like scaling Mt. Everest.

A world of curious eyes always staring.

But, strangely enough, it's a happy world for these diminutive, spiritual, church going people whose humor often is introverted.

## Share 'One Family' Life

This community is located at the Harvey Hotel in Hollywood where nine Little People share a "one family" existence. The citizens are Sadie and Frank Delfino, Gracie and Harvey Williams, Felix Silla, Bob Kanter, Harry Monty, Vince Vella and Roger Arroyo.

Even within this unusual group there is the unique. For example, Sadie and Frank, one of the "Call for Philip Morris" midgets, are one of two midget couples in America to give birth to a midget child.

Daughter Ruth, now married to Charles Richard Spiering, a 5-foot 10-incher from San Diego, has a son, Roumayne, 1 year old, who the family believes will be full sized.

Harvey, who is the brother of Sadie, and husband to Gracie, is the collector of the unusual. He owns a full grown live bull that has three eyes and four horns; has a miniature fire engine, and a miniature mechanical farm. All three are used in exhibitions, parades and promotional work.

## 50,000 Saw Their Wedding

Harvey and Gracie had a more spectacular wedding before 50,000 people. The ceremony took place at the same fair in the midget village with 126 Little People in attendance as well as visitors to the exposition.

Gracie also was one of the top blues vocalists in the famous Singer Midget troupe and her billing was the "vest pocket edition of Sophie Tucker."

Bob Kanter, now 54 inches tall, won vaudeville fame when he was 23 years old, stood 22 inches high and weighed 20 pounds. With Frederick Lamar Easter they did an act called "Little Lord Robert" in the 1920s. He also played in the film, "The Unholy Three" as the cigar smoking baby.

Felix, the current tiniest of the community, is 46 inches tall, which is 3 inches higher than 10 years ago when he came to America from Rome and joined the Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Harry Monty, horse racing enthusiast, is a movie stuntman, professional acrobat and former wrestler. Ironically, the 52½ inch muscleman comes from the giant-sized state of Texas.

## Not Sensitive About Size

Two other members of the group are Vince Vella, 48½ inches tall, who is Little Oscar on TV, and Roger Arroyo, a 49½ inch import from Mexico City.

They are not sensitive about their size, joke about it and refer to 6-footers as "normal." When asked to explain normal size, Sadie grinned and said: "Well, there are more of you than us."

Another midget, who doesn't reside at the hotel, has a standard gag whenever he's a passenger with others in a hospital elevator.

"I yell, 'Take me to the growing department,'" he said, adding:

"They look at us and then look away. They don't want to be caught staring. I understand. I always look at someone who's strange."

Harvey has been a driver of tractors, trucks, buses, a taxicab dispatcher and publicity director for railroad shows in the east.

Frank with his brother owned stores in San Diego. Gracie, Sadie and Bob have all been salespersons. Felix is a good photographer and loves electronics and "building things."

Frank confessed that they have a big advantage.

"We're always welcome for an interview," he said. "The boss' secretary will go in and say, 'A little guy 3 feet tall wants to see you.' We always can get in immediately."

"We're satisfied people and wouldn't trade with a big person," Harvey added.

And then Gracie said: "Do you know the definition of what we are? We're a sample of the normal sized people."



Picking up their keys from the desk clerk, Lester Jones, are Little People—Gracie Williams, Harvey Williams, Felix Silla, Sadie Delfino, Frank Delfino

(back to camera), and Bob Kanter. This group of Little People share a "one family" existence in Harvey Hotel in Hollywood.



Bob Kanter, right, and Frederick Lamar Easter used to do a vaudeville act called "Little Lord Robert" when Bob was only 22 inches tall. He now stands 54 inches tall and is 68 years old.

## Short Shorts On the Little People

Gracie Williams uses a foot stool to reach some perfume bottles. She formerly was with the famous Singer Midgets and was billed as the "vest pocket edition of Sophie Tucker."







Sadie and Frank Delfino relax in their apartment. He is in a full-size chair and she sits in a child's arm

chair. They are the second midget couple in America to give birth to a midget child.



Felix Silla, who is only 46 inches tall and wears a boy's shoe, tries on a full-size man's shoe. He came from

Rome 10 years ago and joined the Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus.

—Herald-Examiner Photos by TOM COURTNEY



STEP UP AND SIGN—Registering for the national convention of the Little People of America in Des Moines is Phyllis Polston of Wixom, Mich., while Little Harvey of Hollywood, who bills himself as the world's smallest midget cowboy, looks on. Hotel clerk is Bob Ingram. The convention, which runs through Thursday, is expected to draw nearly 300 persons. (AP Wirephoto)

neral Home.

## Midget Reports Tiny Wife Is Missing

STOCKTON, San Joaquin Co.—Gordon Osborne is a little man with big troubles.

Osborne, a midget, reported to the sheriff's office yesterday his wife, Dorothy, also a midget, has been missing for a week. So has his car.

It all started a week ago in Sacramento, Osborne related, when he and his wife gave a ride to a stranger to Woodland, Yolo County. They also drove him back to Sacramento where, Osborne explained, the stranger slugged both Osbornes.

When he regained consciousness, Osborne stated, his wife, the car and the stranger were gone. Osborne said he reported the incident to the Sacramento police but was booked as a vagrant. The sheriff's office here checked out his story and got a reply from Sacramento that Osborne had reported only his automobile was missing.

Osborne, who has no permanent address, said his car is a 1948 model sedan. His wife is three feet, seven inches tall.

of northeast, area incorporation.

## Midget Valet To Russ Prince Dies at Age 80

CHICAGO, (AP)—Johnnie Lucas, a 3 foot, 8 inch midget who once served as a valet to a Russian prince, died yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 80.

Doctors said he lived twice as long as the average midget.

For the last 18 years Lucas was a patient and orderly in the Oak Forest Hospital. He had gone there sick and unemployed in 1940. His ability and eagerness to work made him a favorite patient and then employee.

Lucas was former valet to Prince Oldenbusky of the Russian royal family. During the Bolshevik revolution he fled to China and emigrated to the United States in 1920.

Lucas had his own room at the hospital and wore bright red and blue trimmed uniforms, replete with epaulettes and golden braid.

"He performed his tasks," said Supt. Eugene Chesrow, "as dutifully as he had for royalty."



# Little People Like To Think Big

By David Hale

Tammy Sue Kipp is a real heart breaker.

With her green eyes, lustrous red hair and outsize personality, she stands out in any crowd of her peers. She can do whatever any 6-year-old can do — except reach a door knob.

For Tammy is 2 feet 3 inches tall. She is a dwarf, one of the rarest kind — one in a million, says her mother, Mrs. Barbara Kipp, a statuesque 5-foot-2 blonde.

As a dwarf, Tammy automatically is a member of the nation's smallest minority group. There are an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 persons in the United States who meet the qualification by being 4 feet 10 inches or less in height. The national average is 5 feet 8.2 inches for men and 5 feet 3 inches for women.

Along with about 1,000 others Tammy is on the mailing list of one of the most exclusive clubs, Little People of America, Inc., the 12th District of which is currently holding a convention in the Fresno Hacienda Motel. Children with problems similar to Tammy's are, in fact, one of the major reasons for the group's organization in 1957.

As the littlest, Tammy is, not unexpectedly, the pet at the local gathering of about 100 Little People. More surprising, in a world in which "The Norm" is worshipped, she is also a big hit elsewhere, too. A few years ago — and in some circles today — she might have been hidden away.

"One of our biggest goals," says Billy Barty, 3-foot-9 television and night club personality and the acknowledged founder of the club, "is to educate other parents to be like Tammy's.

They don't shelter her. They let her live — as much as she can — a normal life.

As founder of the organization, Barty automatically is a big man in Little People of America. He is also one of the brightest examples for little littles (children). Like many dwarfs, he was born to "regular size" parents. Perhaps "because nobody ever told me I couldn't," he was forward enough to fit into movies at 3, in vaudeville as a teenager. He likes to tell about lettering (at 80 pounds) in football at Los Angeles City College and in basketball at Los Angeles State College.

Today he is seen on national television both as comic and actor, but for two years his principal job has been as master of ceremonies in a Los Angeles children's TV show. The secret of his success? "I don't talk down to them."

Is there anything Barty cannot do?

"I guess I couldn't play on a professional basketball team," he laughs. "We tell our children the only space barrier we have to conquer is between our ears. We are at the point as an organization that we have educated ourselves; now we just have to convince the rest of the world."

Medical profession knows little about dwarfism, beyond classifying the varieties into three general types — pituitary, the cretin and achondroplastic. Pituitary dwarfs are perfectly proportioned but smaller people. The most common the achondroplastic — has normal size torso and head but short arms and legs. But if medicine has overlooked the little people, the public at large has for centuries (and still does, LPA officials say)

regarded them as curiosities. And the objects of the curiosity are not afraid to talk about their adjustment difficulties.

"People stare and call you 'Shorty' or 'Kid,'" says Bob East of Oakland, the district chairman. "They'll

also say 'I hear the circus is in town. Are you with it?'"

Little people have what one physician calls a "visibility" problem. Size automatically associates them with court jesters from medieval times, or carnival at-

tractions today. Partly to avoid that image little people increasingly shun show business.

"Proving to people that we are capable is the big rub," says East. "What people don't know is that we

See Little People Page 4-B



BUILT-INS—Bob East, chairman of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of Little People of America, Inc., shows off the special extensions he fashioned for the foot controls of his automobile.



# Little People: They Prefer To Think Big

From Page 1-B

have every occupation you can think of represented in the club. Our national president, Lee Kitchens of Austin, Tex., is way up the ladder in this electronics company. He even flies his own plane."

"And believe it," exclaims Barty. "We still have cases where doctors say 'Your baby is a dwarf, therefore he will be mentally retarded, too. We don't relate intelligence to size in big people, do we?'"

But there are models for the little littles closer at hand. East, for one, is a mechanical engineer ("We make anything; right now I'm working on a thing to make aluminum beer cans"); Lola Cox, 81, 4-feet-11½, once was one of the Toys in the Toyland Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco, but she retired after 35 years as a print company proof reader and income tax consultant.

Predictably, nothing more arouses the ire of little people than the tendency of employers to automatically pigeon-hole them as handicapped persons. Earl Warr of Goodyear, Ariz., is one of the best-known contradictions.

"Used to be in the circus, tight-wire act," he says. "World War II changed all that. The Air Corps called to train as a mechanic. I worked in the wings, nose, places where a regular-size man couldn't reach. In this group of regular guys, I was first a head mechanic, then a supervisor then an inspector."

"Nowadays, all the aircraft companies employ us. We've proven we can do just about as well if not better than the other guy. We don't need sympathy; it's just a matter of selling yourself."

There are younger exaamples, too. Andre Boursse, 18, of Sun Valley at 4-foot-6, is one of the leading gymnasts at Los Angeles Valley College. He has also been a Little Leaguer and an Eagle Scout. He is studying for a degree in business administration.

Boursse sums up the agony of the adolescent who feels "different" as well as how the LPA helped.

"All my life I'd been awkward around people," he says. "You're in a world apart. Then you meet someone else your size (he has: she is 3-feet-11)

and it's like someplace else, you know?"

Darlene and Dorene Howsden, 19-year-old twins of Hayward, also had social problems caused by height (4 feet 1 inches). Now, perhaps because of the confidence supplied by LPA associations, they think, Darlene is a clerk at the U.S. Treasury Department in San Francisco, Dorene, a stenographer at the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Bobbi Owen of Chowchilla, also credits the organization for bringing her out of the shell.

"I was the only little person in this little town in Oklahoma," she says. "I never saw another one until I was 28. I found out about LPA when a friend wrote me from New Mexico."

What is it like as a little person? Judging from their conversation you learn to endure stares, being confused by the store clerk with that chubby 9-year-old down the block. You would have trouble reaching light switches or pay telephone slots (West has fashioned equipment to overcome that challenge). As an adult you would choose a ground level home and, contrary to popular belief, you would not saw the legs off the furniture.

The club is far from dreary group therapy. Conventions feature bowling tournaments, dances, talent shows, and king and queen contests. A \$5 membership fee provides for a monthly newsletter.

Its leaders hasten to explain that LPA is not a lonely hearts club — that the numbers merely provide a genuine choice for persons who might otherwise accept the first chance. Nevertheless, one estimate has it that 100 marriages have resulted, usually from acquaintances which blossomed at national conventions.

The biggest problems (where to buy clothes, especially shoes; how to choose a profession) may soon be summed up in club booklet. A television documentary to inform the public about the problem of dwarfism is being prepared by Barty ("They're not prejudiced," he says, "they just don't understand.")

Because few little littles are sought for adoption the asso-

ciation also wants a home for unwanted children. So far, says East, in a project for which Mrs. Anna Dix of Los Angeles is largely responsible, 100 such tots have found homes.

Mrs. Kipp, an attractive blonde, sums up the heartbreak as well as satisfactions, explaining how she raises two "normal" children and Tammy.

"I've fought since the beginning to keep her," she said. "Doctors at first gave us three months. Then they said she would never walk, but we had her dancing almost as soon as she could move."

"They said she would be a vegetable, that she would never talk. Now you can't shut her up. Private schools would not take her; they said the facilities would not suit her. So we put her in public schools. At first the other kids would come and stare at her in the room. Now, thank goodness, she stands on her own two feet."

Partly because she feels that no one comprehends the agony the "big" parents of little littles often feel, Mrs. Kipp has been active in the LA chapter's pilot program, Parents Auxiliary, which brings together non-club member parents, "so they will not think they are alone."

Such parents — those of children whose size is caused by an often curable pituitary gland defect — will do anything to get medical aid. Mrs. Kipp can do nothing when the ordinarily sunny Tammy asks "Why am I little" but reply "God made different kinds of flowers for variety, so he made different sizes of people. You are just one of the little ones."

Mrs. Kipp might also hope her child adopts the perspective of Luana Shelton of Burbank, a young grandmother and a hospital payroll clerk.

"We have a salesman who has to duck to come through the door," she says. "I catch myself staring at him sometimes, too. I think it's probably harder on him than it is on me."

Or the cheerful acceptance of a laughing group of adults gathered at the motel newsstand. The source of the merriment: A paper back book entitled "The Spy Who Was 3 Feet Tall."



SO MUCH of the secret of happiness is in your point of view. And sometimes it takes a little man to have the big point of view. Any newspaperman knows some of the smallest points of view come from some of the supposedly biggest people.

Two little folks—in stature—dropped by the other day. But big people, really, in point of view.

Waino and Lillie Johnson, who live in North Sacramento, are two of perhaps eight or 10 midgets in the Sacramento region. Waino stands four feet four inches. His wife is a half inch taller.

"I don't let her lord it over me because of that, though," says Waino, who does a lot of smiling even when a humdrum taller world is sobersided. "We both believe in God," says Lillie happily, "and we don't know what His reason was for making us this way, but we don't hold it against Him—not for a minute!"

She perked up and smiled at her husband: "Maybe it was so I could meet him!"

LILLIE was the daughter of midgets—but the only one of nine children to turn out a midget herself. They prefer to be called midgets, by the way. They are not dwarfs, but quite well proportioned, except on a smaller scale.

Waino was born to "normal" sized parents and complains about his stature only to the extent it makes it difficult to get clothes and shoes. They have to be tailor made. That is one of the main reasons, he explained, why midgets the country over have organized a nationwide group, The Little People of America. The Johnsons wanted to inform little people everywhere that the group will hold its second annual convention in Las Vegas, November 28th through December 1st.

The nationwide association hopes to work out deals with clothing and shoe makers, among others, to help in this department. And they help each other in other ways—a good bit from the mutual fun they share, in watching the so-called "normal" sized world.

"You should see us when a bunch of us get together," Waino laughs. "We can sit around and watch normal people watching US, and the way they act, half way pretending not to see us and yet sneaking looks, is the funniest thing there is!"

"We laugh at each other most," Lillie says. "One of our private jokes with my husband is that I'm going to sue the city for putting the sidewalk too close to his bottom!"

They met when both played in a midget circus in Texas. Lillie was a small town Texas girl, Waino from a farm in Illinois. He, incidentally, has played in many movie roles and once worked in small spaces in airplanes doing riveting and wiring in an aircraft during World War II. He now is employed at Aerojet.

"When I went from the farm to go to work in the midget circus," says Lillie, "I had never seen anyone my own size. I grew up terribly shy about it. After I came back home after meeting Waino and falling in love with him, my folks asked me, now I'd seen the big city, did I wish I was tall as other people? That was the first time I realized how happy I was to be little. I told them, 'What, now that I've met HIM—and him LITTLE?'"

## SACRAMENTO, CAL. MIDGETS PURCHASE PROPERTY

Recent purchasers of Lehigh Acres property are Sacramento, California residents, Mr. and Mrs. Waino W. Johnson. In addition to the fact that we're gleefully tickled to learn that we have lured California residents to Florida is the interesting news that Waino and Lillie Johnson are midgets!

Johnson, 57, now employed at McClellan Air Force Base as a maintenance man in the electrical department, is four feet, four inches tall. His wife tops him by half an inch. The fact that they are small people, however, hasn't kept them from making friends. In 1933-34 Johnson became the smallest peace officer in the United States when he was elected constable in Hibbing, Minn., his home. Husky little Johnson patrol-



Mr. & Mrs. W. Johnson

led the town's dance halls and kept an eye on the strapping miners. "I used to grab 'em by the legs, and they'd go right over," he recalled. "I didn't care how big they were, I used to work in the mines myself. One time I picked up a big guy and threw him into a clothes closet. He didn't get up, either."

At other times in his varied career, Johnson was a nightclub entertainer, circus performer, motion picture actor, skier and ice hockey goalie. He played goalie for the Hibbing police ice hockey team. He was a substitute goal tender and had big shoes to fill when he got into the games. The first string man was six feet, six inches tall, and weighed 300 pounds. Johnson then tipped the scales at 129.

## Little People To Convene

Mr. and Mrs. Waino Johnson of 240 Arcade Boulevard have announced that Little People of America will hold a convention in Las Vegas November 28 through December 1. Anyone under four feet, six inches tall is invited to participate.

Members will get free rooms at Hacienda Hotel and meals at half price during the convention, which will include golf tournament, fashion show, auto races, free floor shows and selection of the convention King and Queen. Mr. and Mrs. Lilliput.

Two \$500 scholarships to DeVry Technical Institute in Chicago will be awarded by vote of the convention.

For further information contact Mrs. Launa Shelton, 2121 West Madison, Phoenix, Ariz., or get in touch with the Johnsons.

## Boulevardies

By "MAC"

When on the Boulevard  
You happen to see  
A jovial smiling man  
Measuring four feet four,  
From the Boulevard to  
The top of his head,  
You'll then be aseeing  
"Woodie," the husky little logger.  
Some times he carries an axe  
Most as large as himself,  
And that shows he's a logger.  
When you talk to him,  
He tells you about television,  
And also about Russ Osburn,  
The manager at Woodlake TV,  
Where the world series  
Were shown on a color set  
And which made us think  
We were really at the game.  
The green grass infield  
And all the vivid coloring  
One sees at such an event,  
Makes you think it's really real.  
(That's sure a lousy sentence.)



## LILLIPUTIAN FAMILY



A MIDGET FAMILY, the Owitch brothers and sisters, photographed in an immigration camp near Haifa, Israel, following their arrival from their homeland, Romania. They were prisoners for years in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz.

## Midget Urges Little People Of US To Unite

By Douglas S. Dempster  
Little People Of America, unite!

This is the call to arms of Waino Johnson of 236 Arcade Boulevard, North Sacramento, local spokesman for midgets.

Nineteen of the estimated 160 midgets of America held their first national convention last week in Reno, Nev.

Their first action was to widen the membership to all people under about 4 feet, 10 inches tall.

Johnson, 56, stands 4 feet, 4 inches. His wife, Lillie, is 4 feet, 4½.

## Many Occupations

Don't sell these little people short.

Johnson has proven proficient as a town constable, ice hockey goalie, Hollywood night club entertainer, circus performer and skier.

Like many another handicapped person, he has not let his deficiency become a crutch.

He was touted in Robert Ripley's Believe It Or Not as the world's smallest constable. He operated in 1923-24 in Hibbing, Minn., where he watched the town's dance halls, frequented by burly iron miners and woodsmen.

"A couple of them got into a fight one night," the diminutive former constable began. "I looked up at 'em and said, 'This is no place to fight. Go out there 100 feet and tear the woods apart if you want.' "They didn't put any fuss. They moved away and they didn't fight."

## Little Discrimination

A similar measure of respect has attended Johnson throughout his active life. He finds little discrimination on account of his size. However, his wife has experienced difficulty getting a job because of it.

Before they came to Sacramento five years ago, they were employed on an oilman's estate near Bakersfield.

"My wife had to take care of a 14 room house and give dinner parties for 75 or more people," Johnson explained. "It wore her down and we had to leave."

Since then she has stuck to keeping up their two bedroom home while Johnson has worked at McClellan Air Force Base.

Mrs. Johnson's dishwashing job is made easier by a raised platform and ramp at the sink.

## Enjoy Gardening

The couple enjoys gardening and the other responsibilities attendant on home ownership.

With their new "midget car—for midget people," as Johnson describes it, they plan frequent fishing trips. He likes to hike.

"I just have to take a few more steps than the next guy," he laughed.

One day long ago, he tried out the Hibbing ski jump, featuring an 80 foot drop from a mine scaffold unused in winter. He buckled on his skis and took off, landing headup. This made him a ski enthusiast for years.

## Special Problem

The convention the Johnsons attended was called so midgets could meet others of their kind.

The midgets have a special problem—communicating with one another. Just like everyone else they seek security with their own kind.

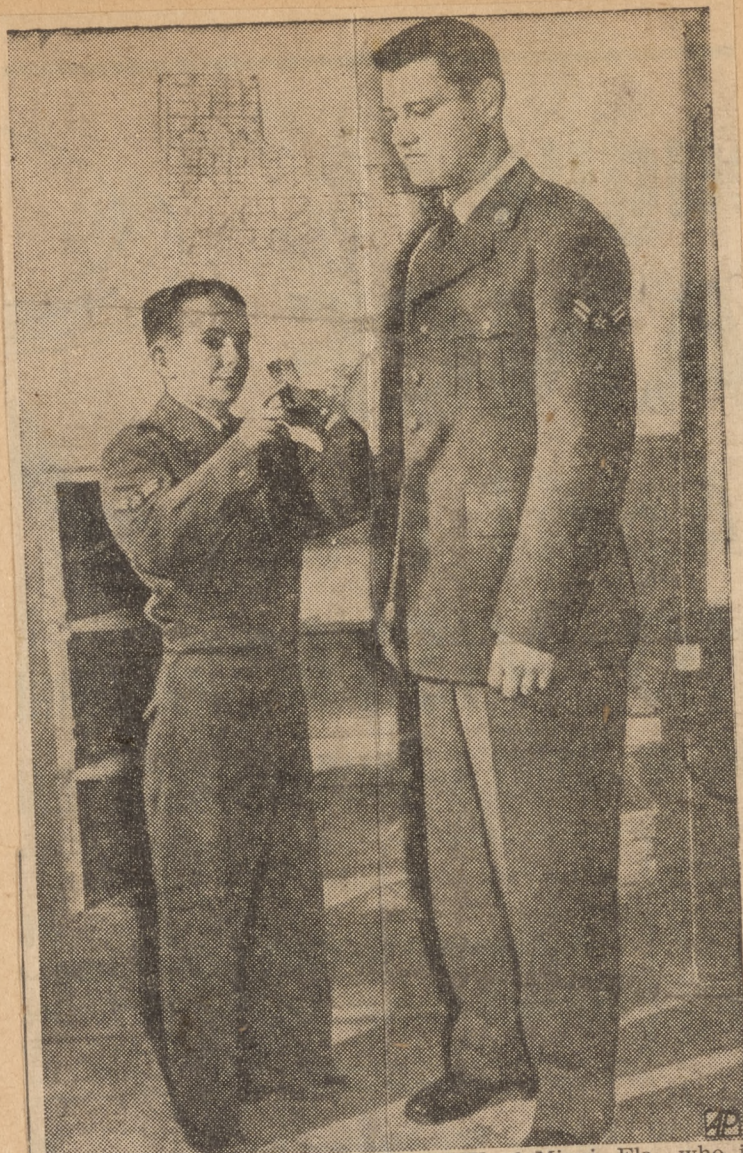
"Living in an out size world," a convention statement points out, "and having to plod through the endlessly tall forests of 999,999 big people to see someone like yourself is discouraging."

Billy Barty, a Hollywood entertainer 3 feet tall, was named chairman of the fledgling group.

Midgets and others interested in the Little People of America idea may write or telephone Johnson at Wabash 2-3904, or write Barty in care of the Riverside Hotel in Reno.







**AIRMAN 2/c RICHARD K. MACKEY** of Miami, Fla., who is 4 feet, 7 inches tall and is believed to be the smallest man in Air Force, chats with Airman 2/c Floyd G. Hunnicutt. Mackey is assigned to duty at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. The Armed Forces have lowered size restrictions since World War II.

## GARRICK

### Rose's Parisian Midgets

Staged and costumed in Ziegfeldian style, Rose's Parisian Midgets, a stage show, featuring the world's most attractive lili-putian varieties and musical ensembles, is now playing at the Garrick. Comprising the most talented "little people" ever assembled in one show, this group of singing and dancing and musical artists hail from all parts of the world.

Aside from the programmed spectacular ensemble numbers, which include a Gay Nineties Bowery number, a Spanish Fiesta, a Fan Dance quintet featuring midget fan dancers, there are also numerous individual specialties. Outstanding among these novelties are the magic program presented by Vance Swift, world's tiniest prestidigitator; Hollis Edwards, a small tap dancing prototype of Bill Roninson; Mary Ellen Burbach, a miniature Mae West; and Princess Suzanne, Europe's midget serpentine danseuse.

Featured also is Esther Florman, whose voice has amazed critics everywhere, and who but for her limited stature would be making opera history in the European capitals. Musical background for the show is furnished by a midget swing band.

Judy Garland and Freddie Bartholomew in "Listen, Darling," is the screen attraction. It is based on Katharine Brush's magazine story of the same name.

Wednesday brings "Broadway Musketeers," starring Margaret Lindsay, Ann Sheridan, Marie Wilson and John Littel.

satellite states follow suit.

## 'Tom Thumb' Pair United

ASHLEY, Pa., March 4. — A genuine "Tom Thumb" wedding here climaxed a romance begun 16 years ago as two midgets were married in Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church.

Looking like a queen-size doll in a wedding gown she had made herself, Odette Pilkerton, 36, of Nashville, Tenn., 3 feet 10 inches tall, became the bride of Joseph A. Katalik, 4 feet 6 inches, of Ashley, while a crowd of 2000 jammed the church and surrounding grounds.

In the wedding party were 12 midgets. Some of them associates of the bridal couple when they appeared on the stage with a traveling troupe.

## Tiny Folk Have Tiny Tot

CLEVELAND (AP) — A 3-foot-7 woman and her 4-foot-7 husband are parents of a 4-pound, 7-ounce daughter.

The parents are Mrs. Trinidad Milano, 35-year-old housewife who weighs 58 pounds, and Joseph James Milano, 35, a machine shop worker. They are former circus performers.

Mrs. Milano gave birth Tuesday, through a Caesarean section, to Mary Ann. Doctors expect the infant to grow to normal stature.

"This is the happiest thing that has ever happened to us," Milano said. "We have wanted a child for eight years. We will try to give her the best."

## World's Smallest Pair Awaits Child No. 2

TURIN, Italy — UP — The "smallest couple in the world" are expecting a child, their second. The parents are Vittorio Spady, who is 2 feet 8 inches tall and his wife, Maria, who is 2 inches taller. They have a 4 year old son almost as tall as they.



**INSIDE STORY**—Dorene, left, and Darlene Howsden, identical twins from Hayward, get in some light reading during a lull in convention activities.





**REACHING TALL**—Mrs. Albert Anderson of San Bruno demonstrates a device for adjusting to one of life's biggest nuisances—untouchable slots, light switches or ele-



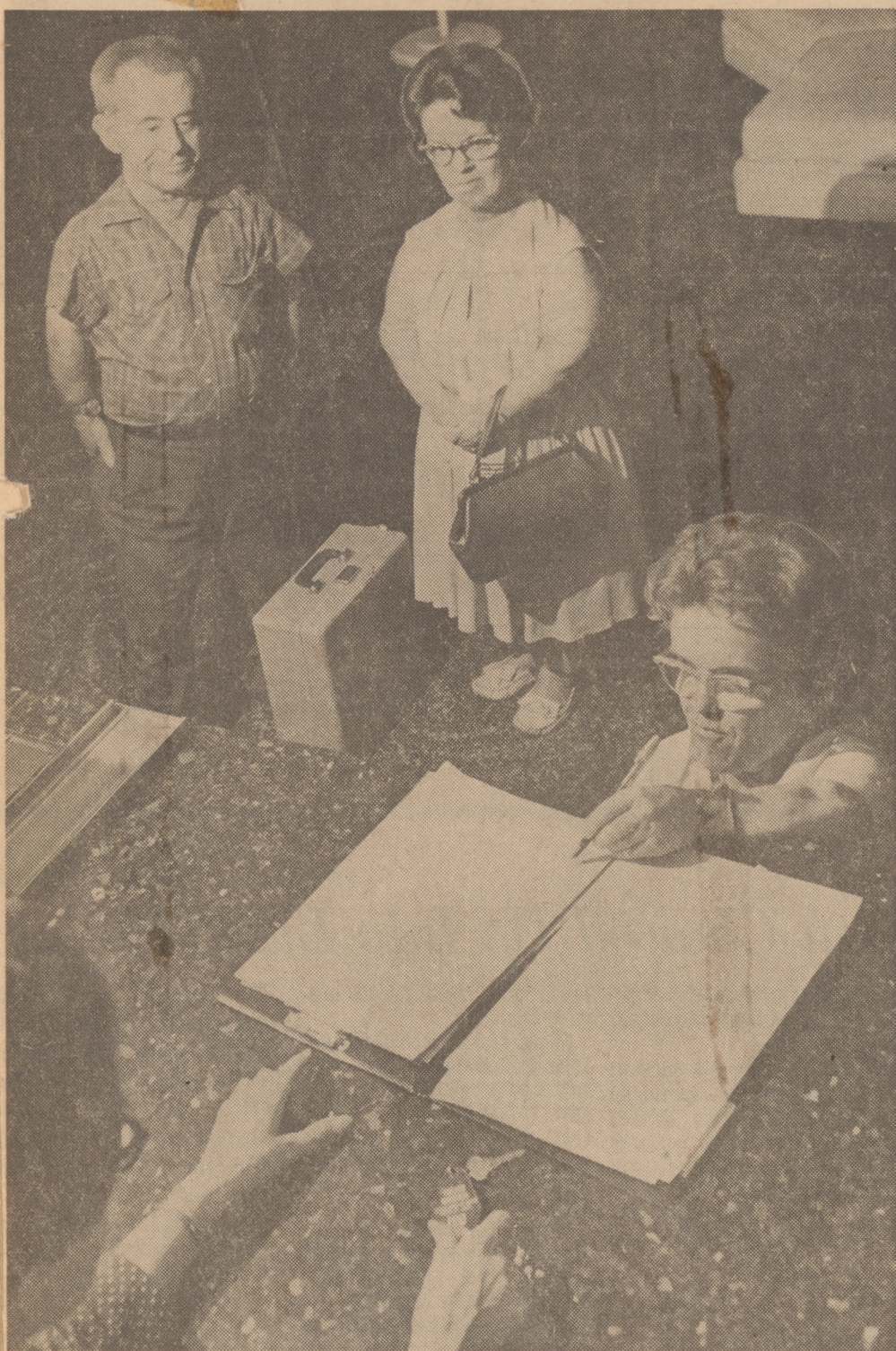
**YOU AND WHO ELSE?**—Facing up to a close shave at second are umpire Fuldio (Foo) Parenti of Mountain View and Felix Silla of North Hollywood. Teams will vie today for a trophy. Parenti is a watchmaker and jewelry setter. Silla is the be-



**BIG PROBLEMS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE** — Things "big people" take for granted turn into mountains for Little People of America. LPA district 8 members now convening in Lubbock at the Rodeway Inn here illustrate a few everyday difficulties. At left, Nancy Kelly of Fort Worth, climbs

drawers. In center, Sandy Morris of Fort Worth tries in vain for the elevator button. At right, Mrs. George Cromwell uses her telephone stool. Watching her are from left, Mary Beth Eley of Hobbs and Frances Billingsley and Mrs. J. P. Billingsly, both of Snyder. (Staff Photos by Gerry Burton)





Bee Photos by Edward C. Nold

**SIGNING UP**—Measuring up to the physical obstacles in a world designed for conventional sized persons often is simply a matter of stretching her 4 feet for Bobbie Owen of Chowchilla, as in registering for the district convention of the Little People of America, Inc. Waiting their turn are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Warr of Goodyear, Ariz.



## MIDGETS DEFEND ABILITY

# It's Only the Big Nuisances That Bother Little People

"We don't have any problems—just nuisances."

Problems, explains 4-foot, 1-inch Lee Kitchens, "mean you are looking for answers. We already know the answers."

Kitchens, a Richardson, Tex., resident who manages an engineering branch for Texas Instruments, Inc., is president of Little People of America, Inc.

More than 200 of the wee folk—all under 4 feet, 10 inches—gathered at the Hollywood Knickerbocker Monday for a week of social events and consideration of some of the "nuisances."

Clothing and finding a job are among the major ones, Kitchens says—particularly jobs.

"The trouble is too many little people are not qualified for the work they want to do," says the engineer. "This gives them an added handicap on top of their size."

Billy Barty, 3-foot, 9½-inch

television and movie personality who founded the group in 1957, adds another area.

"Preconceived notions on the part of big people," he says. "Too many have the wrong idea about the abilities and intelligence of little people."

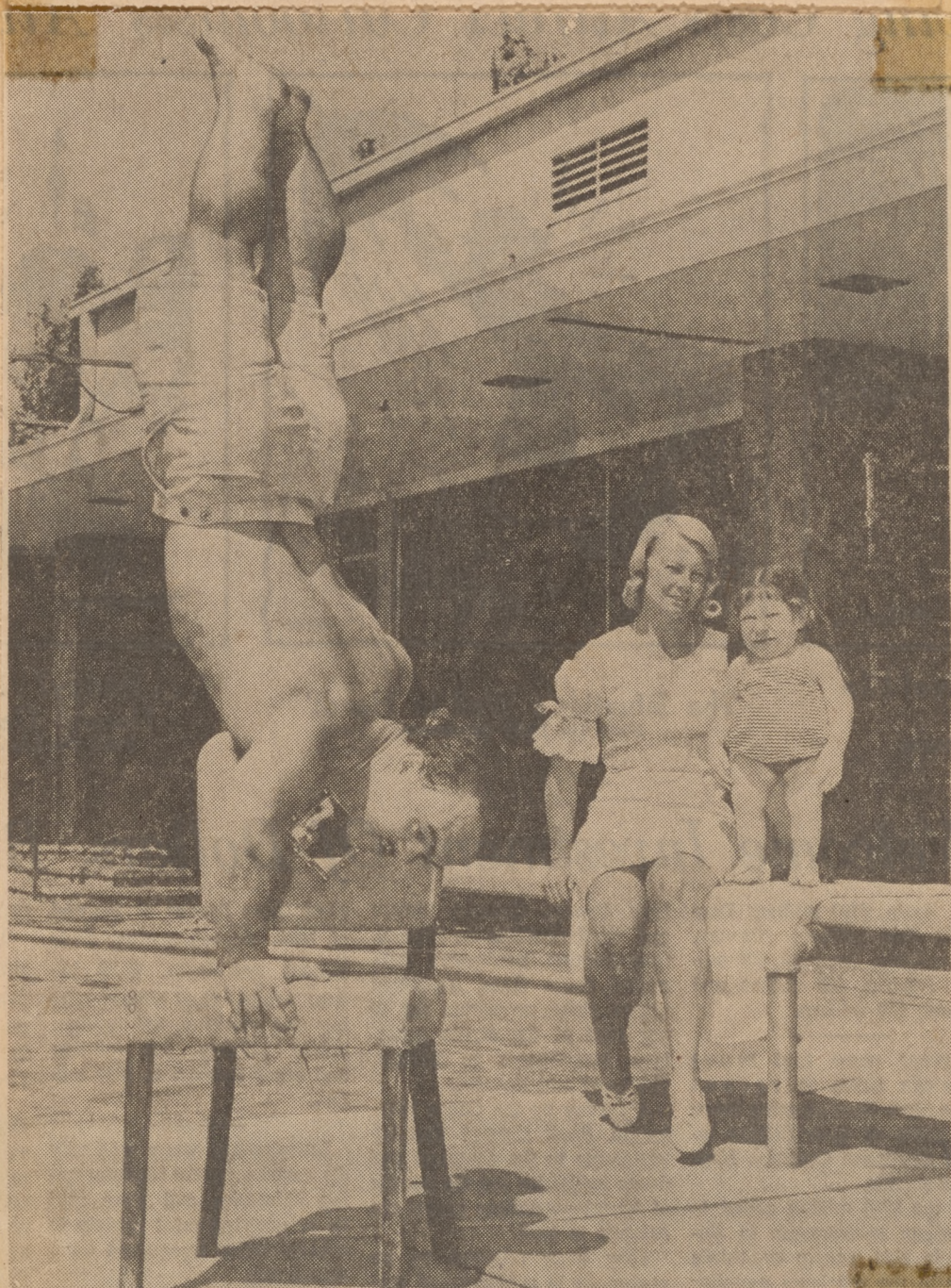
Both Barty and Kitchens say they don't know what a "normal" person is. They refer to people taller than they as "big people."

Jerry Marens, 4 feet, 3 inches, has another complaint:

"We get paid according to our size," he says.

Barty uses the term "midget" to explain the general lack of knowledge about dwarfism: A midget is a type of dwarf who is perfectly proportioned but "about two-thirds size."

"They have already classified 40 to 50 types of dwarfs," he says, and "we're helping them to find more."



**STAND-IN**—Andre Boursse, 18, of Sun Valley practices the balance he acquired as one of his college's outstanding gymnasts before mascot-sized Tammy Kipp and her mother, Mrs. Barbara Kipp of Claremont. Tammy may never do acrobatics, but she does roller skate.

## THINGS LOOKING UP

# Little People In Big Group As City Convention Opens

By GERRY BURTON  
Avalanche-Journal Staff

THINGS are looking up for the Little People of America — those who for any of a hundred reasons

(See Little People Photos On Page 1 Sec. B)

never grew taller than 4 feet 10, the limit set by the organization for its members.

Early arrivals for the LPA District 8 convention Friday through Sunday at the Rodeo Inn spelled out the difference the LPA has made in their lives and what they hope it will do for others in the future.

"Parents used to hide people like us because they were ashamed. Other parents were over-pro-

tective, shielding their child from the outside world," district president George Cromwell of Fort Worth said Friday as he registered little people for the meeting.

"Getting Used To Us"

He was nearly grown before he knew he wasn't the only person his size in the world except a few in carnivals and circuses. There are 1,200 in the club and there are believed to be 5,000 in the United States in all professions, the main exception being basketball.

"People are getting used to seeing us little people running around," he said.

"None of our problems are bigger than we make them."

"There's nothing wrong with us, we're just as big as other people and we can do

See LITTLE Page 10

## IT'S A CONVENTION

# Little People Prepare For Big Time In City

## FROM PAGE ONE

anything we want to . . . It just takes us a little longer to get places sometimes," his wife said, amending her statement to add, "One thing we absolutely cannot do is cross our legs."

**Minds Were Warped**

During times when dwarfs and midgets were hidden from the world or placed in sideshows, none could be much else because, by the time they reached maturity, their minds were sometimes warped by underexposure to the world, Cromwell pointed out. People ridiculed and picked on them.

The ridiculing and picking-on still goes on to a certain extent, particularly in early school life, but "if a little person has just a little sense of humor, he comes out way on top."

Stools are a big part of their lives as they "clamber up and scramble around" trying to live in the big world. The conventions are a high time in their lives, giving them a chance to "look everybody in the eye to talk instead of always looking up."

**"Almost Smothered"**

They get "almost smothered" in elevators and in waiting lines. Umbrellas and elbows keep poking them in the face.

Things like drinking fountains, pay telephones, elevator buttons, light switches—things that need just a little more reach than they have—give them trouble. Mrs. Cromwell once couldn't get help in an emergency because she couldn't reach the telephone slot or dial. Sandy Morris of Fort Worth, a three-foot teenager recently elected "Mini-Miss of the Southwest," became stranded when her friends forgot her on the upper floor of a hotel and she couldn't reach the elevator button. Mrs. Cromwell now keeps a stool in her car and Sandy keeps up with the crowd.

A firm in California now makes things to help little people reach farther, but they still use their own inventions, too.

**Used Wood Blocks**

"They wanted a fantastic amount to make extensions on my first car, so I sawed two two-by-four blocks and tied them to the pedals," Cromwell said. A friend uses cigar boxes bolted to the gas pedal.

Cromwell put a hook on a telescoping car antenna for his wife to carry in her purse to reach things on the top shelf at the grocery store.

At home they have two bars in their clothes closet, which doubles their space, but on trips they hang clothes on a hanger because they can't reach the bars.

**Face Two Worlds**

Nancy Kelly of Grapevine, district secretary, has a piece of curtain rod with a nail in the end that "flips the hot and cold buttons and closes the lid at the laundromat." One of her favorite ways of climbing is to

"make stairsteps of drawers to get to the top." She, at 4 feet 2, played basketball in high school.

They live in two worlds, their own and the "big one." The Little People of America, founded by actor Billy Barty in 1957 for California and in 1960 for the entire country, is making their world larger every day and making it easier to live in the big one.

It's easy for them to spot a fellow member or a future one. Their group grows with personal contact and by pulling in little people, or their parents, anywhere they hold conventions. A portion of each convention is geared to visitors seeking information.

**Get Most Attention**

Meetings are mostly getting together, pooling information about how to solve the big problems of little people—clothes, jobs, and the like. They are found in every vocation more and more each year.

Those going into politics get the most attention and they point with pride to the late Charlie Lockhart of Snyder who became state treasurer.

Danny Blain, a Fort Worth blueprinter, finds time to win trophies in golf and bowling. His irons are "ladies' irons cut down a little" but his woods are men's.

**Parents Adjust, Too**

About 30 per cent of the little people have big people for parents and their chances of having big people for children are "about 50-50."

"Parents have to adjust as much as we do," Cromwell said. "The best thing they could do would be to leave their little people with their big brothers and sisters and not treat them any different — then they'd learn how to get on with the world."

Taking advantage of or blaming their size is the worst thing a little person can do, they all agree.

**Special Agencies**

J. P. Billingsley of Snyder had six brothers, "all six-footers," and they gave him no special treatment on their Scurry County farm. Currently he is Snyder's justice of the peace. His daughter, Frances, an even 4 feet tall, is a deputy county clerk there.

There's a special adoption agency for "little littles" — as those under 12 are called — that big parents do not want. Many of the babies are found abandoned.

Not all are known to be little people at birth. They just reach a point where they are different. There are 80 different types of dwarfs alone.

"It's a gland thing with us," Cromwell pointed out. He spoke of research and of discoveries — "too late for us because we're grown" — that are giving hope to parents of "little littles."

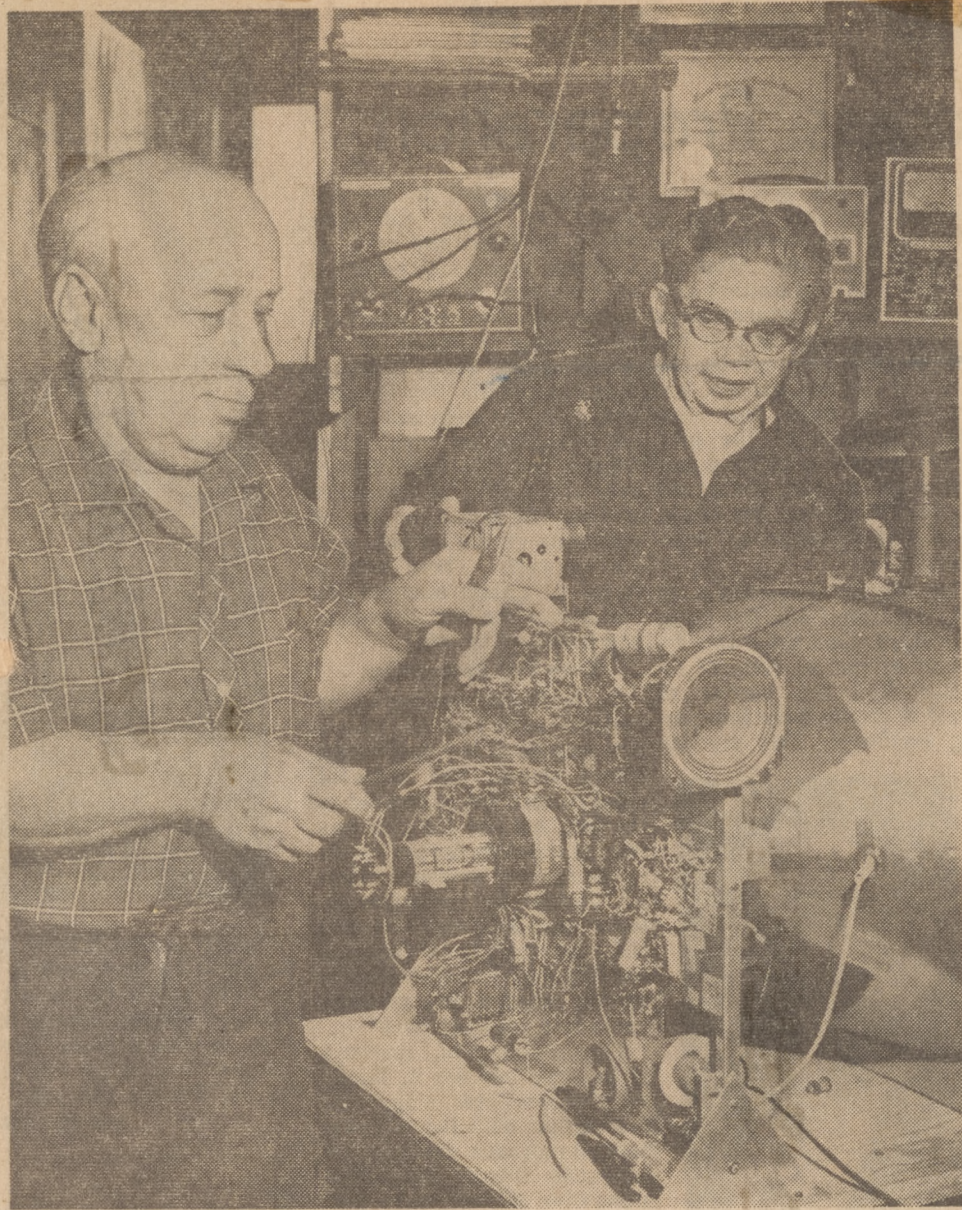
**"One Big Family"**

For the grown little people, who want nothing more than to be treated as people who are "merely shorter than the average person," there is the companionship and help of the Little People of America, people like themselves who can help them live happier in their two worlds.

"Lots of little people all over the country are lonely, worried and maybe afraid and we'd like them to know about us and we'd like to know them, because, after all, we little people are all one big family," Cromwell said.

The people who learn of the Lubbock meeting too late to come he urges to write him at 4028 Ryan Ave. in Fort Worth so they can be a member of the "big happy family of little people" whose motto is "Think Big."





Waino W. Johnson gets a helping hand from his wife, Lillie, as he repairs a television set. Bee Photo

## Little Man Has Many Problems But Ability To Smile Is Big Asset

Most of the perplexing problems in life can be chopped down to size with a smile and the ability to make others laugh.

This is the philosophy of Waino W. Johnson of North Sacramento, an expert at reducing problems to a minimum.

The 61 year old Johnson, who is four feet, four inches tall and is classified as a mid-giet in the organization of Little People of America to which he belongs, has spent a lifetime living up to his principles.

His zest for living has ex-

ceeded his height several times. A native of Virginia, Minn., he has been a hockey goalie on the Minnesota iron range, home of some of the finest hockey players in the United States.

Later when he moved to nearby Hibbing, Minn., he made Bob Ripley's Believe It Or Not as the smallest constable in the world.

He has been a circus acrobat and clown and has been in movies in Hollywood in addition to appearing in night club acts.

Johnson also took time to attend an electronics and tel-

evision school in Chicago and now does television and radio repair work in a little shop in back of his home where he has lived with his wife, Lillie, for 10 years.

### Convention Ahead

Waino and Lillie, who is four feet, four and a half inches tall, are as excited these days as they used to be when the circus was about to open in a new city.

They are looking forward to attending one of the most unique conventions in the world: The 1961 national convention of Little People of America. It will be held November 27th through 30th in Las Vegas, Nev.

At this affair Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will be among about 200 little people who will work out problems peculiar to their group.

### Employment Problem

"One of the biggest difficulties we have in life is finding employment," Johnson said. "Some of the most surprised faces I have ever seen are in an employment office. After they recover they tell me I am too short. We hope to work out a plan whereby we can have a better approach to employers in fields where average size people work."

Of all the jobs he has held, Johnson stated, he is proudest of having been the smallest constable in the world.

It was his ability to make others laugh that saved a chief deputy sheriff in Hibbing, Minn., from possible injury or death. This occurred when the deputy tried to break up a fight between two men in a dance hall. One of the fighters held the deputy and the other was about to slash him with a broken bottle when Johnson leaped in and demanded they break it up.

Suddenly the two men who had been fighting looked down at the sight of the little man ordering them about and began to laugh. The chief of police in Hibbing later wrote to Johnson:

"It took courage on your part and you didn't hesitate. You did a good job. Quick thinking on your part as well as quick action saved Healy (the deputy) from some real serious damage or possible death."

Johnson is planning on some quick action for the Little People's baseball game in which he will participate in Las Vegas. He also will do some whistling in the talent show.



## Little People Hold Conclave in Bakersfield

Little People of America, an organization of dwarfs and midgets, is holding a district convention this week end at the Hacienda Hotel.

The meeting is the third annual District 12 convention of the group, composed of delegates from California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

Billy Barty, star of a children's show on KTTV in Los Angeles, is convention chairman.

Mayor Russel V. Karlen, Kern County Dist. Atty. Kit Nelson and Dr. Ruth Michaelson, will speak before the group.

The annual north versus south baseball game will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Standard Park, Oildale.

The organization, which boasts national membership of 2,000, is concerned with the education of its members, and the con-

see Little Folk—page 10



Two of the "Little People" attending a convention in the Hacienda are twins Dorene and Darlene Howsden of Hayward, juniors at Chabot College, San Leandro. Wally Pitchford assisted in registering midgets and dwarfs for meeting.

## 4 Foot Teacher Educates Tots On Own Level

DARRINGTON, Wash.—AP—First grade pupils in Frieda Groenveld's class can look their teacher squarely in the eyes. She is 4 feet tall.

Being of a size with her pupils bothers neither Miss Groenveld nor the youngsters.

"Children need an answer," she says. "When you give it to them, that's all they need."

This is her first month as a teacher and Miss Groenveld admits she had the usual opening day jitters of the new teacher. One boy, clutching his mother's hand, looked the teacher in the eyes and asked: "How come you're so little?"

"I'm as big as you are," said the little teacher as the mother blushed. "Aren't we going to have fun?"

Fun is one of the nice things about being a first grader here, but there is always order and respect. When Miss Groenveld mounts her kitchen stool—she calls it "my throne"—the class falls silent. Darrington school officials believe they have a gem in their new teacher.

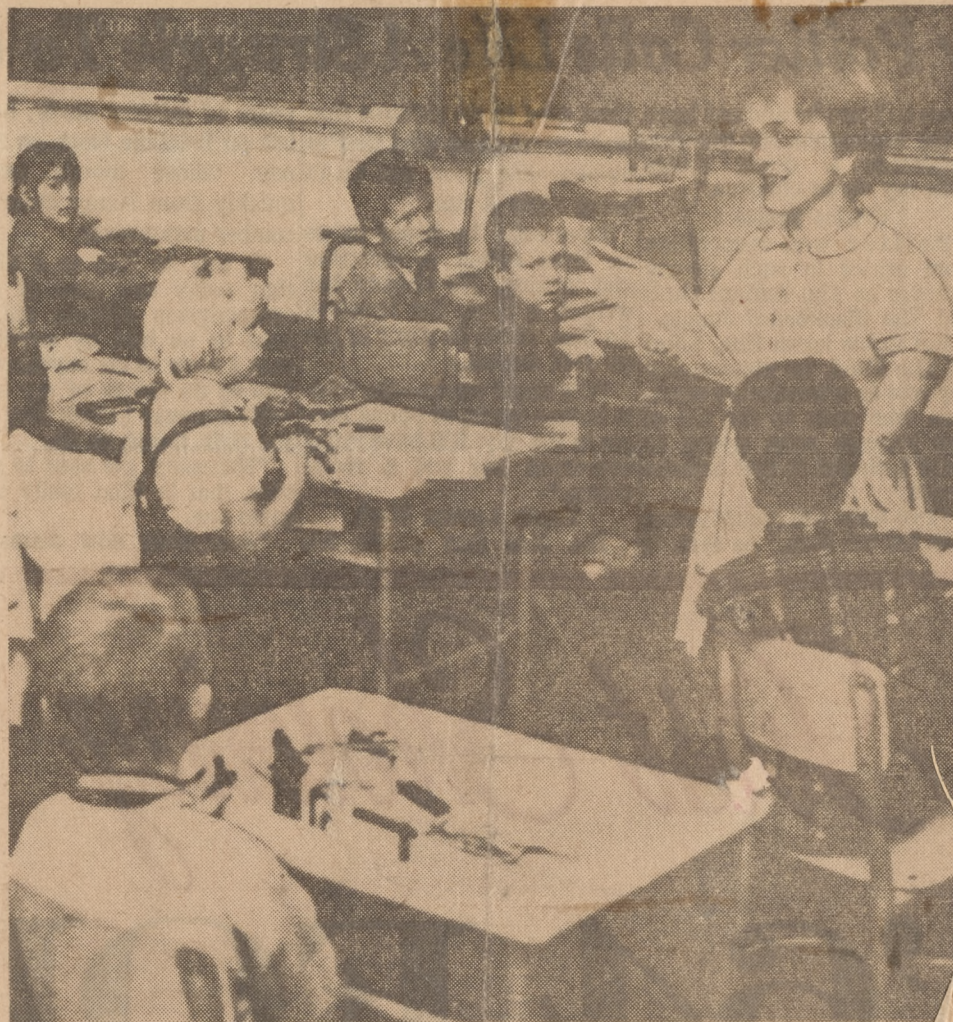
"I can really say that I've never wished that I were tall," says Miss Groenveld.

"My parents always emphasized that I would have to make my own way without depending on people feeling sorry for me."

Throughout the school she is known as "the little lady." Pupils from the upper grades often drop by to help her with physical tasks, such as posting bulletin board material.

"The thing that matters when people look differently at you," she says, "is how you, yourself, take it."

"If people are going to laugh, I'll laugh with them."



Frieda Groenveld is just slightly taller than her first grade pupils in Darrington, Wash. AP Wirephoto



number, bought in a moment of exhilaration that didn't return upon cool scrutiny of the purchase, consisted of several shades of insistent green. While in khaki, Jimmy thought of that suit occasionally, imagining with complacency that the moths had flocked to it, breathing out wooly messages to each other, to wit, "Come on, kids, munch on this fine green salad. Ah, what a vegetable flavor!"

That suit came through the years unperforated. But Jimmy's favorite, a conservative blue garment, was sieved. His dinner clothes, however, appeared to be in excellent condition. Remembering that they had taken him, glistening, through the smartest of Princeton functions, Jimmy donned them to serve as one of the masters of ceremony at the Academy Award presentations. He is still trying to live down the appearance. Seems that the styles of gentlemen's clothing change as fast as a winning streak with a pair of dice.

Luckily, his shirts were intact, in style, and in fit.

Although the used car situation has not been smooth for a buyer in any state, in California it has been rougher than a lumberjack's chin on Saturday morning. Jimmy prowled around used car marts for several weeks, being careful to avoid bumping fenders, on the ground that most of them threatened to collapse on unwary toes. Finally he found a '41 Buick that had logged seventy thousand miles.

It was wearing a second set of tires which seemed to be good, and its mechanical behavior was without noticeable grunt, growl, shriek, clatter or detonation. Jimmy bought it, fingers crossed. To date he likes it better than any other car he has ever owned; its gas consumption is minimal, it seems to live without oil, and it rides like eider-down—almost.

One of Jimmy's early civilian experiences had to do with the radio. He was to appear on "Suspense" in the role of a murderer, so rehearsal was held in a great gloomy, darkened studio one afternoon. At one point in the script, he was supposed to drop a hatchet on a table. Jimmy read the accompanying lines, then paused because he had been told that an appropriate sound effect would be dubbed in. When the appropriate sound effect echoed through the studio, Jimmy almost shed his skin.

Turning around he spied the sound man back in the corner among his equipment, dropping a wicked-bladed hatchet upon a scarred table. Afterward, in discussing the realism of "Suspense," Jimmy told a friend, "I don't know what effect it had on the customers, but it scared all heck out of me."

The bobby-sox menace and the Sinatra swooners are new to Jimmy since his return to The States. He has had some delicious experiences, but his favorite autograph story of all time covers an episode that took place one night on a London street.

Jimmy had been strolling along, alone, window shopping, when he was stopped by a woman clutching the rebellious hand of her small son. "I beg pardon, sir," the woman said, "but my little boy would like to have your autograph if it's no trouble."

"No trouble at all," said Jimmy, "except that I don't happen to have a pencil." He smiled at the little boy who was glaring upward. "Perhaps you have a pencil, son?"

"Naw," snapped the youngster. "An' I don't care. All I want is some gum, chum."

To judge from the fan mail that has already begun to pour in for Mr. Stewart, his American admirers plan to make far greater demands. All they want is about five pictures per year to be made by their favorite Jimmy. They will be glad to accept "It's A Wonderful World" as a starter.

THE END



The Rezmondo midgets (Mr. and Mrs. Augustin) double for the child stars below, in the new RKO pic "Child of Divorce." Something unique in careers; they solve the child labor problem.

**A new twist! Adults are movie stand-ins for kid actors**

## Tiny Team

By KATHERINE LAKE



George McKonald



Sharyn Moffett

● To illustrate the long and short of Hollywood, one would need John Wayne and Bunny Waters as a team to contrast with Mr. and Mrs. Augustin Rezmondo. The Rezmondos, though not as celebrated as the two epitomizations of height, are quite as essential to picture making. They are midgets.

When you see Sharyn Moffett, taking some long chance in any of her pictures (currently RKO's "Child of Divorce"), be at ease. Miss Moffett is safely on the sidelines while Hazel Rezmondo is executing the difficult tasks. When you see Jackie Jenkins riding, breakneck, on a horse (as he does in (Continued on page 68)





**SHORT PUTT** — A foursome on the fifth hole in the Tiny Tournament of Champions currently being played on the Hacienda Hotel's miniature golf course, watch one of the delegates at the first annual convention of the Little People of America, hole a short putt. Sinking the ball is Nells Nelson, of Hollywood, Calif., while Charles Cross, of Iona, Mich., Joe Vercellino, of Palo Alto, Calif., Charles Be Devne, of Onairo, Minn., and scorekeeper Marilyn English, of Phoenix, Ariz., look on.

REVIEW-JOURNAL PHOTO

## 1,200 Parley Planners Begin Meet



**BIG AND LITTLE**—Delegates from one convention now going on in Las Vegas stop to admire an exhibit from another conclave here. President Billy Barty, on ground, and Vice President Dan Turner, of the Little People of America, look over the seven-foot-high bottle of aspirin tablets displayed by Monsanto Chemical Co. at the International Convention Planning Exposition, "first convention for convention planners," at Las Vegas Convention Center. It holds 2½ million tablets.



# 500 Midgets Converge Here For Annual Confab of 'Little People'

About 500 members of the Little People of America are converging on Las Vegas from all over the nation to open a four-day convention here today.

Employment opportunities for men and women handicapped by small size will be a major topic of discussion by members of the association, limited to persons under four feet nine inches in height.

These people suffer many disadvantages in life; to name just one, most of them cannot drive cars. Many of the delegates to the convention here, in fact, arrived last night by plane.

On the lighter side of the convention, nominations will be made for "Mr. and Mrs. Lillyput of America."

The convention will open with a 4 p.m. reception and a 6:30 p.m. buffet dinner today in the Palomino Room of the Hacienda. Delegates then will be guests for the evening cocktail show at the New Frontier Hotel.

The first business session will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow, and there will be a golf tournament at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

Another business meeting at 8 p.m. tomorrow will be followed by dancing.

Movie and TV actor Billy Barty is president of the Little People of America, made up of persons from all walks of life.

Barty, currently playing in the Peter Gunn TV series, also has been in many movies, notably "Midsummer Night's Dream."



"COME ON, LITTLE JOE!" — Jerry Maren kneels on the drink rack of a dice table to throw the cubes as he and other members of the Little People of America enjoy some Las Vegas gambling at the Nevada Club on the eve of their four-day convention. At left are Bill Albaugh, national representative of the soft-drink firm Squirt and dubbed "Little Squirt," and his wife, Maria. In center is Marjorie Bourassa, and at right is Dan Turner, the association's vice-president who is slated to become its next president. Also at right, but perched like Maren on the dice table, is Hollywood stunt-man Harry Monty.

(SUNfoto by Wayne Kinnie)

## 2d Section Seattle Post-Intelligencer Sports, Classified Finance, Ships

Tues., July 11, 1961 S★★ 17

### Short In Size But Tall In Love: Two Little Persons To Wed

Two little people came hand-in-hand to the King County Marriage License Bureau, only one of them able to see over it, and he just barely.

Kenneth Dwayne Nichols, 27, is four feet, six and a half inches. His bride-to-be, Vivian Elaine Gant, 23, is forty-one inches, her mother said, although Vivian appeared to be even shorter.

They will be married the afternoon of July 30 in the home of Mrs. Mary Wamsley of Edmonds, friend of the bride.

THE COUPLE'S witness when they applied for their license was the bride's moth-



MRS. MURIEL GANT (REAR), VIVIAN GANT AND KENNETH NICHOLS  
Big Day Looms For Pair Applying For Marriage License

—(Post-Intelligencer Photo by Cary Tolman.)

er, Mrs. Muriel M. Gant of 227-2nd Ave. N. in Edmonds, with whom Vivian lives.

The small man and woman became acquainted some months ago through the Little

People of America Club, made up of midgets. Their courtship was mostly by mail. Nichols lives at 7114 NE 47th St. in Portland, where they will make thier

home until they can find a house where things can be cut down to size of a bride hardly as tall as the standard kitchen stove.

## Little People Organize Teenage Auxiliary Here

The Little Littles of America, teenage auxiliary of the Little People of America, was born last night in Las Vegas. Formation of the nationwide organization of small-sized teenage boys and girls was the highlight of yesterday's opening session of the convention here of the Little People, itself an association of U. S. men and women under four feet nine inches in height.

David Thompson, a local youth whose father works at the Silver Slipper, is a member of the new association. Gordon England was elected president, Ezra Lee Dame vice-president and Marilyn England secretary.

Committees on employment, education and other fields where little people have problems were hard at work, meanwhile, and an as-

sociation member introduced a new line of midget furniture, as the 500 small-sized delegates got their conclave into full swing.

A letter from the U. S. President's Committee on Employment of the Physically Handicapped was read commending the Little People on their convention here.

President Billy Barty said members of his association don't really consider themselves handicapped, though. "We include electronic engineers, other engineers, veterinarians, stockbrokers, commercial artists, chefs, barbers, grocery chain operators, secretaries, television men, salesmen, accountants and many artists in the entertainment field."

A Little Open Golf Tournament, the leading of the pledge of allegiance to the flag by 13-year-old Andre Boursee, three feet four inches tall in his Boy Scout uniform, and an invocation by Clint Lester, motor lodge owner from Grants, N. M., also marked yesterday's program.



# Billy Barty Finds Size No Problem

By GARY WASHBURN

Bakersfield's Hacienda Motel was the site of a somewhat unusual convention over the week-end—unusual because the participants were members of the 12th district of the Little People of America.

Present at the convention was Billy Barty, one of the key men in the organization of the now 8-year-old Little People of America.

Barty, who stands 3 feet 9 inches, is an actor who has participated in several television shows and some 120 motion pictures.

He recently completed filming of a movie which stars Elvis Presley. And he has a daily television show for kids in Los Angeles.

In short, he is successful.

But he is not alone. In the Little People of America California chapter, Barty said, there are technicians, lawyers, teachers and persons from all professions and walks of life.

And the image of the successful little person is what the membership impresses upon prospective members.

"One of the main goals of our organization," Barty said, "is to assist the little person in finding his place in society."

"Our conventions are especially important. They provide a time when we can educate one another so that we will be able to educate the big people."

According to Barty, there is no such thing as a "normal" person. "If a normal person has been found," he said, "we would like to know about it."

Barty believes that there are big people and there are little people. Thus, he concludes, there is no such thing as a "normal" big person and an abnormal little person.

The first national convention, held in 1957, attracted 27 little people. The group, however, recently held its national convention in Gloucester, N.J., and 127 were in attendance.

"One of the best indications of our growth," Barty said, "is our mailing list. From names, in 1957, it has grown to 2,000."

Bob East, the 4 feet 6-inch district governor of the Little People, said the only problem his group faces is in getting persons to join.

"These persons," East said, "are afraid to face reality. They (the little people) have been over-protected since childhood."

"They think life offers nothing. That because they are small, they cannot do anything."

"This simply isn't the case. We have the same capabilities as big people."

"You have to set your goals high in order to succeed. But you can't set any goals as long as you have an unwarranted feeling of inferiority."

Both men said their organization is working at present to build its California and national membership.

One of the most effective means the Little People have of getting members, the men said, is through illustration of the accomplishments of those who already belong.

Further information can be obtained from Bob East, 3807 Brokdale Ave., Oakland.

S.F. EXAMINER  
5-28-68



LOLA COX

Oldest little person

## Funeral Held For Lola Cox, Tiny and 83

Funeral services were held today for Miss Lola Cox, reputed to have been the nation's oldest "little person."

She died at her home in San Francisco at the age of 83.

After learning the printing trade from a newspaperman in her hometown of Lamar, Mo., the tiny Miss Cox joined a traveling troupe of entertainers.

By 1915 she was in San Francisco and working at her printing trade. For over 50 years she worked with various printing companies on Howard Street.

Miss Cox is survived by a nephew, William Lucas of Lamar, Mo.

## Little People Elect Leader; Yup, A Texan

A small Texan has been handed the big job of president of the Little People of America for 1964-65.

Elected during balloting today was Lee Kitchens of Richardson, Tex.

He takes over the post held by Bob Brower, 825 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale.

More than 125 Little People are meeting this week for their sixth annual convention at HighwayHouse. Next year's get-together will be in Gloucester, N.J.

Re-elected vice president was William Albaugh of Camden, N.J. Treasurer will be Charles Bedow, Owatonna, Minn., and Frances Conville, Decatur, Ga., secretary.



Gazette Staff Photo

New president of Little People of America, Lee Kitchens (left), is congratulated by Bob Brower, outgoing president.



# ARIZONA DAYS & WAYS

July 12, 1964

THE REPUBLIC'S **Sunday** MAGAZINE



*Little People In The Big People's World*



# Little People Have Big Time in Films

BY JOHN L. SCOTT  
Times Staff Writer

Those simian children skittering about in "Planet of the Apes," film story of a world where civilization has taken a strange turn, are midgets—all over 40 years of age.

The little people, as they like to be called, were assembled for the Arthur Jacobs production at 20th Century-Fox by frisky, 60-year-old, 50-inch-high Billy Curtis, who has become a fixture in Hollywood.

"It was a work bonanza for the little people," said Curtis, between puffs on his omnipresent cigar. "We got about four weeks. Ye're always happy to work for 20th, where we're treated well. Midgets have much dignity and pride."

## Talkative Mite

Billy's a knowledgeable, talkative mite, knows the entertainment business from end to end and has become a sort of leader-spokesman for Hollywood's little people.

"There are a lot of us scattered around Southern California," he said. "There's not too much work in films and TV, and now and then some will desert to circuses, although there aren't many of those left."

Billy said he was standing in for a child on a movie set when producer Arthur Jacobs wandered in, asked him if he were an "agile actor."

"I didn't know Jacobs," Curtis said, "but thank goodness I didn't give a smart-aleck reply. As a result I got little people together from a 500-mile radius to audition for 'Planet of the Apes.' I guess my cigars are good for something besides smoking. They keep my big (?) mouth shut when it should stay shut."

Billy voiced one complaint but admitted he and his cohorts could have avoided it.

"We wanted regular actors'

Please Turn to Page 12, Col. 1

## Little Folk Have a Big Time

Continued from First Page  
stipend instead of extras' pay," he said. "We got it, then discovered the extras were making more money because of overtime. But we made our bed and that's that."

The feisty Curtis said he enjoyed his stint in "Planet of the Apes" particularly because his good friend Charlton Heston starred in it. "I've worked with him in a lot of pictures, 'Ten Commandments,' 'Greatest Show on Earth' included. He's a swell guy in my book."

## Six Children

Billy and his equally tiny sister Mary were the last to be born in a family of six children. Their parents and the other four kids were normal size. Billy attended Northwestern University until he was "yanked off campus and into show business."

He began his career with Mary in vaudeville in 1932. They danced and were known as The Curtises. "The last time we worked together was in Chicago with Paul Ash," Billy reminisced.

The mighty midget went on to other entertainment mediums, including wrestling. "At one point I had my own midget wrestling show," he grinned. "Later I refereed an astounding match between Gorgeous George and Burt Lancaster for a charity circus here in Los Angeles. Bob Hope was the announcer."

When Billy arrived in Hollywood, the pickings were slim, although he kept fairly busy in such movies as "Wizard of Oz," "Lady in the Dark," "Three Wise Fools," etc., and as a stand-in for such child stars as Shirley Temple, Margaret O'Brien, Darryl Hickman, Butch Jenkins and others.

"We're a set thing," he explained. "Kids aren't; they grow up. All film producers have to do is rotate us for size." This logic brought the little people together and they organized a tight little group affiliated with actors' guilds.

"We stand in for any kid entitled to a stand-in," Curtis said. "Result is fewer kids, fewer kids' mothers and fewer teachers on the sets. And when there's a stunt to be done, we can do it."

Billy has performed his share of dangerous stunts, including falling off a roof in "Hondo."

"I was doubling for a kid who had chased his pet chicken onto the roof, then fell off," he said. "Sure, we bargain for stunt work—so much for such and such a job."

Curtis revealed that there are just a handful of little people who work steadily in movies and TV. "I call 'em the 'Big 8,'" he said.

## News Headline

Never averse to publicity, Billy has hit news headlines fairly often. Example: Some years ago he married Lois De Fee, a towering showgirl whose height was reported as six feet, eight inches. The marriage ended in annulment three years later.

At the time Billy told the judge and reporters that "it was very serious with me." When we brought it up the other day the lively midget just smiled and winked.

"Now," Curtis said with his best leer, "I'm a bachelor and available."

"I was married to a normal-sized woman 25 years ago. It ended in divorce," he added. "I have two children, Tom, 19 who is over six feet tall; and Judy Elena, 21, who is married and a mother. That makes me a grandfather."

As far as jumping around in the entertainment business is concerned, Billy says he's happy to be 'secured' here. "I like Hollywood," he declared, puffing away contentedly on his stogie.



Sixty-year-old Billy Curtis, who plays one of the simian children in "Planet of the Apes," says the little people are always happy to work for 20th Century-Fox where they are treated well.

Times photo by Mary Frampton



## SMALL ACTORS LODGE COMPLAINTS

### 'Little People' Claim Job Discrimination In Films

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—This fine day gave birth to the Association of Little People, an idea dedicated to the proposition that "height does not make might" anywhere but in a fist fight.

"Little people are discriminated against," said Billy Curtis, who stands 4 feet, 3 inches. His pal, Frankie Delfino, 4-feet-2, nodded his assent.

"We've been discriminated against since the day we were born," continued Curtis.

Billy and Frankie are actors and their anger is aimed mostly at the big guys of television and movies. The rest of us don't get off scott-free, however.

"We're in show business and can't get a job unless the script is specifically written with us in mind," Curtis said. Delfino nodded. "Why can't we get in a picture and just walk down the street like big guys? Little people walk the streets too, you know."

#### No Commercial Work

"And we can't get work in television commercials because of our size. Why not? We eat breakfast food, butter and drink milk just like everybody else."

One source of employment for short folk has been as stand-ins or doubles for child actors on movie sets.

"Now they hire big guys," complained Curtis. "We also used to do stunts for kid actors. Now they use other kids. Where they would have to pay a little guy \$25 a day to stand in for a kid, they now hire another kid at \$23. The \$2 saved goes to cocktail parties for clients, I guess."

Things have gotten so bad in Hollywood that the total work force of little actors has shrunk

to 15. There used to be 100, Curtis said.

"Never in the history of show business have the little people been in such a dire state," said Curtis, who is trying to get work for his group in a new television

circus series, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

"What side work can we get?" he asked. "There are a lot of places we could work and increase the business. For instance I could manage the children's department

of a store." To augment his earnings, Curtis once worked in the pest control business, an occupation where little people could be utilized crawling under buildings and into attics.

## Tiny guy looks for big parts in industry hard on dwarfs

By JOSEPH FINNIGAN

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Actor Michael Dunn is a dwarf, a little guy looking for big parts in a movie industry which usually thinks of midgets for circus-type pictures.

And even though he stands only three feet ten inches and weighs just 76 pounds the 29-year-old Dunn has been critically appraised as a large-scale talent.

His most notable acting achievement was on the rugged testing ground of New York's Broadway where he appeared

in the play "Ballad of the Sad Cafe."

"I got this part mostly from the play," said Dunn on the set of Stanley Kramer's production of "Ship of Fools."

Dunn plays the role of "Herr Glocken" who comments throughout the picture, a story of a ship load of passengers bound from Vera Cruz, Mexico, to Germany in 1933.

"This is a straight acting party," said Michael, who describes many midget and dwarf roles as flunkies "for a Chinese general."

During the interview at Columbia Studio, Michael sat on costar Jose Ferrer's canvas chair which was on the deck of "Fool's" make-believe ship setting. Dunn's role is different from the character portrayed in the book upon which the screenplay is based.

"Because they had me, they made it a dwarf in the screenplay," he said. "There aren't many parts around for dwarfs. But there aren't many dwarfs to play those parts that are around."

## 4-Footer With Pool Cue

TUCSON, Ariz. — One of the best pool players in Arizona is the smallest.

He's Joe Contreras, 24 years old, standing four-feet-two and one-half inches tall. When he has to reach for a long shot, he uses one hand.

But Contreras has been the Tucson city champion five times, and he won the 1970 Flagstaff Tournament of Champions.

"I know there aren't many who can beat me, no matter how big they are," Contreras says.

"I don't mind being short. It has its problems, but sometimes it's nice to be noticed. Only thing is, I don't want anybody to be shorter than me."



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